RED RIVER

9

story and art by **Chie Shinohara**

RED RIVER™

Prince Kail, a young warrior and sorcerer, and Yuri, a modern-day teen, were thrown together when Queen Nakia drew Yuri across time and space into the ancient Hittite Empire. When it is the season of the North Star, Prince Kail has the power to send Yuri home. But the evil queen's plan to murder them both—and their growing feelings for one another—keep getting in the way!

Yuri fights to clear her good name by publicly confronting her impersonator. Rather than earning respect, however, she is exiled to a settlement of the sick and dying! Yuri sets out to change people's minds, all the time hoping to be reunited with Kail. However, her heart is broken when she finds out that Kail has been hiding a terrible secret of his own. Does Kail deserve his bad reputation?

RED RIVER™

vol.9

Story Thus Far:

Prince Kail
The third prince of the Hittite Empire, and a powerful sorcerer.

Yuri
A Japanese schoolgirl magically transported to the ancient Hittite Empire.

Queen Nakia
An evil sorceress who will stop at nothing to ensure her son's succession to the throne.

Yuri was an ordinary junior high student until the day she was sucked into a puddle on the street and emerged in the ancient Hittite Empire! Evil Queen Nakia had used her magic to draw Yuri across time and space to be a sacrifice to her god, Teshub. Rescued by the handsome but arrogant Prince Kail, Yuri is taken to live in his palace as his concubine. Yuri soon learns that in order for her to return to her own place and time, three conditions must be met: she must have the help of a sorcerer equal to the queen—which Prince Kail turns out to be; all seven of Hattusa's springs must fill with water; and Yuri must wear the clothes she had on when she was kidnapped.

Yuri steals into the queen's palace with Kail's young servant, Tito, to retrieve her clothes. But they walk into a trap, and Tito is killed after saving Yuri's life. When the opportunity finally arrives for Yuri to go home, she refuses, vowing to stay until she has avenged Tito's murder.

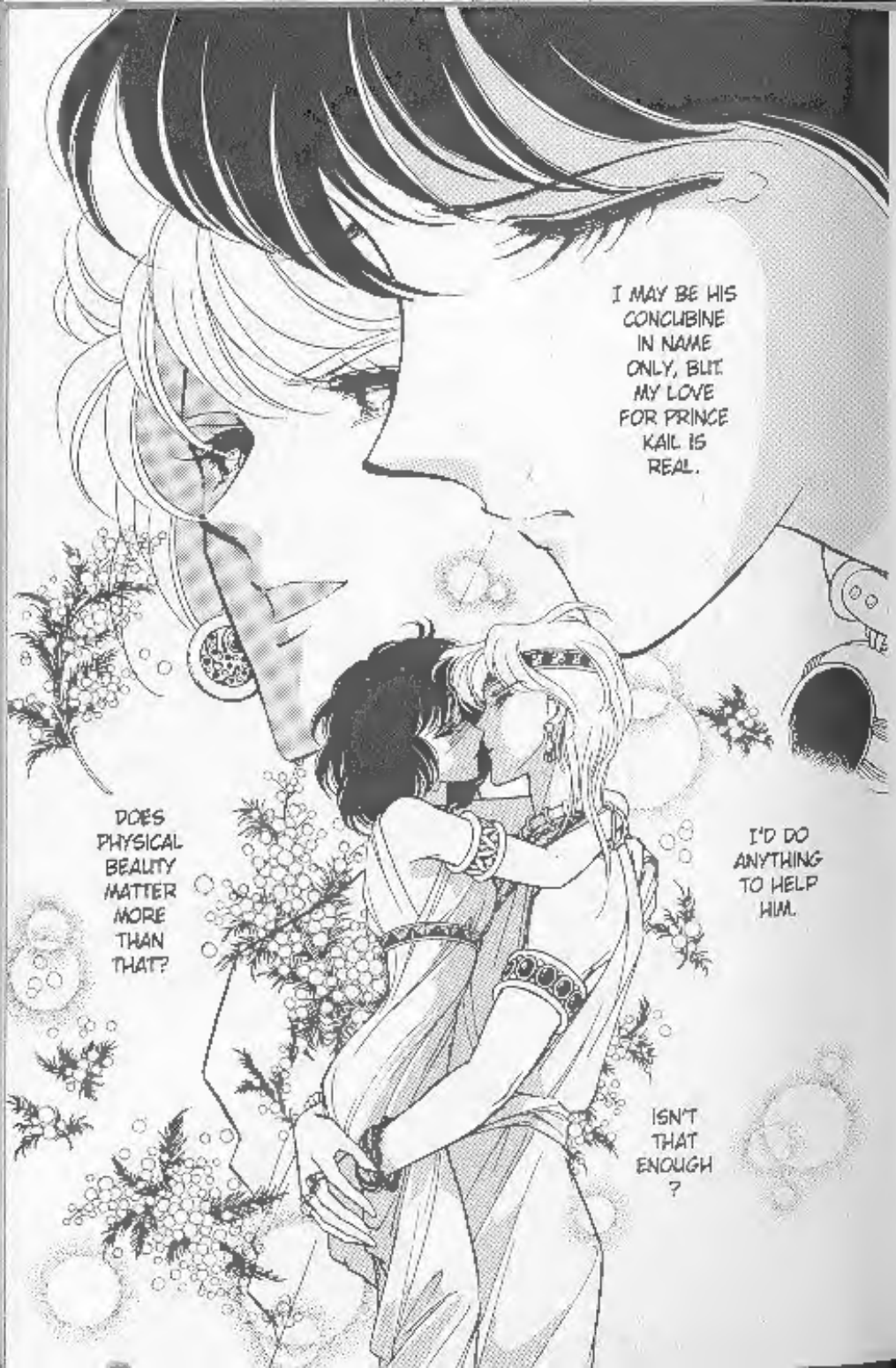
The Hittites come to adore Yuri as the incarnation of the goddess Ishtar. Soon Yuri discovers that Prince Kail's dream is to create an empire of justice.

Now an epidemic of the deadly Seven Day Fever strikes the Hittite Empire. Suppiluliuma succumbs to the disease and Kail's older brother becomes the new emperor. Kail and Juda, the son of Queen Nakia, are then named as candidates for crown prince. Meanwhile, a woman impersonating Yuri appears in the city of Katapa where she outrages the people with her selfish behavior, causing Yuri's popularity to plummet. To restore her good name, Yuri sneaks into Katapa alone...

AND MY PRINCE DOES WHATEVER I ASK OF HIM...
I WILL ASK PRINCE KAIL TO PUNISH YOU SEVERELY.
ESPECIALLY IN HIS BED-CHAMBER.
STOP THAT!
I'M ISHTAR!
STOP MAKING TROUBLE FOR PRINCE KAIL BY IMPERSON-ATING ME!

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
NO, I WON'T!
AND... AND SHE'S NOT...
NOW!
APOLOGIZE TO ISHTAR!
YOU INSOLENT RAG PICKER!

KLANK
W-WAIT!
PLEASE! LISTEN TO ME!
SACRILEGE AGAINST ISHTAR IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE, GIRL!
TAKE HER AWAY!
SHE'S UNSIGHTLY AND OFFENSIVE TO ISHTAR!
PREPARE YOURSELF!
I... I'M...
YOU ACTUALLY THINK THAT PRINCE KAIL WOULD EVER MAKE LOVE TO YOU?
ISHTAR IS PRINCE KAIL'S CONCUBINE!
...
HA
YOU ARE ISHTAR ?!
YOU? ISHTAR ?!
HOW AMUSING!
HO HO HO HO
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
JUST LOOK AT YOURSELF!
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT ISHTAR IS STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL?
THAT IS A GOOD ONE!


I MAY BE HIS CONCUBINE IN NAME ONLY, BUT MY LOVE FOR PRINCE KAIL IS REAL.
DOES PHYSICAL BEAUTY MATTER MORE THAN THAT?
I'D DO ANYTHING TO HELP HIM.
ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?

COME WITH ME!
ARE YOU STILL CLAIMING THAT?
BUT IT'S TRUE! I AM THE REAL ISHTAR!
HO HO HO
AH HA HA HA
DON'T LET THAT WOMAN GET AWAY WITH THIS!
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
DON'T YOU THINK?
IF THAT GIRL COULD BE A PRINCE'S CONCUBINE, THEN ANY ONE OF US COULD!
AH HA HA HA
WELL, SHE WAS AT LEAST ENTER-TAINING.

SHE COULD HAVE SEEN HER IN HATTUSA...
IT MAY BE THAT SHE HAS SEEN THE REAL ISHTAR.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IT WON'T DO TO ALLOW HER TO KEEP CALLING YOU A FALSE ISHTAR.
IT WAS SIMPLE JEALOUSY THAT CAUSED HER TO MAKE SUCH A WILD CLAIM...

I'M SURE THE MAYOR WOULD SEND HER THERE IF YOU TOLD HIM TO.
STILL, IT MIGHT BE SAFER IF SHE WENT TO THE VALLEY.

DON'T FORGET, IF EVER YOUR DECEPTION IS EXPOSED, YOU'LL BE CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

IF YOU WISH TO PUNISH HER...
...WHY NOT SEND HER TO THE VALLEY?
OH, URHI...

HOW SHOULD I PUNISH THAT GIRL?
HOW AUDACIOUS OF HER TO CALL ME AN IMPOSTOR. EVEN THE MAYOR AND THE NOBLES BELIEVE THAT I AM ISHTAR.

WELL, SENDING HER TO THE VALLEY IS A KIND OF FORCED LABOR.
I WAS THINKING OF A GOOD LASHING OR PERHAPS FORCED LABOR...
YOU MEAN... *THAT* VALLEY?
BUT SHE'D NEVER COME OUT OF THERE ALIVE!

I'LL NEVER COME OUT OF THIS PLACE ALIVE?
THE SICK?
IT'S A PITY A YOUNG GIRL LIKE YOU HAS TO GO HERE. YOU'LL NEVER COME OUT ALIVE.
KLAK
IN WITH YOU!
WHY DON'T YOU DEVOTE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE TO CARING FOR THE SICK?
BAM
RUSTLE

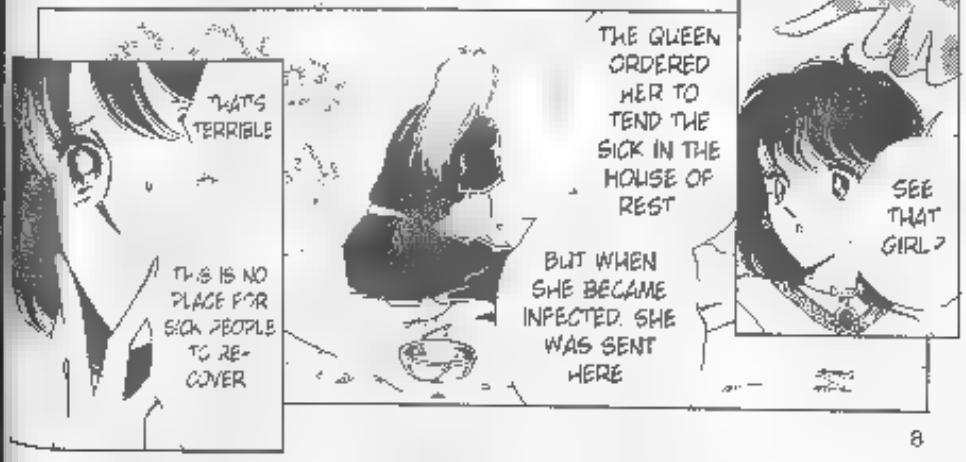
I DON'T MIND HELPING OTHERS, BUT WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
NOW WE'LL SEE IF YOU'RE AS GOOD AT HELPING OTHERS AS YOU ARE AT SHOUTING AT GODDESSES.
SHUT UP AND WALK.
YOU THINK YOU CAN INSULT ISHTAR LIKE THAT?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
LOOK THERE.
THAT IS THE VALLEY.

GASP
YOU!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO BE THROWN INTO THIS PLACE?
YOU'RE NOT INFECTED, ARE YOU?
NO ONE CHOOSES TO COME TO THE VALLEY.
DO ALL OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE THE SEVEN DAY FEVER?
YES. BUT ONLY THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFLICTED ARE CONFINED HERE.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT BEFORE YOU CAME?
CAN'T THEY GO TO THE QUEEN'S HOUSE OF REST FOR TREATMENT?
THOSE ARE ONLY FOR THE RICH.
!!
ARE THESE PEOPLE...
...VICTIMS OF THE SEVEN DAY FEVER?!

EVEN A HEALTHY PERSON WOULD SOON FALL ILL IN THIS PLACE
A HEALTHY PERSON ?
THIS PLACE ONLY MAKES THEM WORSE
THAT'S WHY ALL THE VICTIMS ARE DOING SO POORLY HERE
YOU'RE RIGHT
NO ONE PROVIDES FOOD OR MEDICINE FOR THESE PEOPLE
THEY HAVE TO WALK A LONG WAY EVEN TO GET WATER FOR THEMSELVES.

ONLY THE RICH AND THOSE WITH HIGH-RANKING FRIENDS CAN GO THERE
KOFF KOFF
WE ALL WISH WE COULD BE TREATED IN A HOUSE OF REST

THE QUEEN CARES NOTHING FOR COMMON PEOPLE LIKE US.
THOSE HOUSES OF REST ONLY EXIST TO MAKE THE QUEEN LOOK GOOD
HE'S RIGHT POOR SUFFERERS LIKE US ARE SENT HERE TO ROT


THAT'S TERRIBLE
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR SICK PEOPLE TO RECOVER
THE QUEEN ORDERED HER TO TEND THE SICK IN THE HOUSE OF REST
BUT WHEN SHE BECAME INFECTED, SHE WAS SENT HERE
SEE THAT GIRL?

HEH
HEH
HEH
IT'S UNLIKELY THE GIRL HAS EVER HAD THE SEVEN DAY FEVER BEFORE
SHE MIGHT HAVE SUFFERED AN EASIER DEATH HAD SHE ALLOWED QUEEN NAKIA TO HAVE HER HEAD
HEH
HEH
SHE'S SURE TO PERISH IN THE VALLEY
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
I CONTRACTED THE FEVER AS A CHILD AND SURVIVED.
NO I'M HERE OF MY OWN CHOOSING.
ARE. ARE YOU INFECTED?
IF YOU CONTRACT IT YOU'RE AS GOOD AS LOST
THEN YOU'RE IN TERRIBLE DANGER!
YOU MUST FLEE IMMEDIATELY OR YOU'LL BE INFECTED!
IT IS SAID THAT HAVING SURVIVED THE DISEASE, ONE CAN NEVER BE INFECTED AGAIN.
HAVE YOU EVER HAD THE SEVEN DAY FEVER?
NO WE DON'T HAVE THAT DISEASE WHERE I'M FROM

HE CAN HELP YOU
KURK IS THE MAYOR'S SON
BUT THE MAYOR PUT ME IN HERE
HOW CAN I GET OUT?
WAP
NOW COME WITH ME!
THAT MAN WHO GROVELS AT SHTAR'S FEET
IS NO LONGER MY FATHER
THE MAYOR'S SON? YOU?
OH.
WATER
GIVE ME WATER
HANG ON I'LL BRING YOU SOME SOON.
EMPTY
BA-BUMP
THE SEVEN DAY FEVER
BA-BUMP
BA BUMP
IF YOU'RE NOT SICK YET FLEE THIS PLACE AT ONCE
SHE'S NOT THE ONE
WE'RE SHORT OF EVERY-THING HERE
WE CAN'T GET ENOUGH WATER TO EVEN
THE BURNS
. IS A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE WITH A HIGH MORTALITY RATE I'M TERRIFIED!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

ER-HER-HER
I'M NEXT
NO, I'M NEXT' THE MAYOR SAID THAT ANYONE WHO COULD BREAK THIS HORSE COULD HAVE HIM.
AAAH,
FWUMP
BUT HE SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE TO HANDLE
UGH'
THIS IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY
RAAH
I CAN RIDE THAT HORSE'
RAAH
OFF WITH YOU.
WE'RE BATTLE-HARDENED SOLDIERS AND NONE OF US CAN STAY ON THAT DEVIL'S BACK'
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND, GIRL?
RAAH
RAAH
OH, THE MAYOR'S. WHO IS THIS WOMAN, MILORD
SHE'S MY SERVANT
RAAH
RAAH
EEEK
RAAH
IF YOU CAN GET HIM BACK, YOU CAN FLEE KATAPA.
THAT'S YOUR HORSE? EXCELLENT
ASLAN:

SWOOP
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
TARRUMP

SILENCE
WAP
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP
WUMP

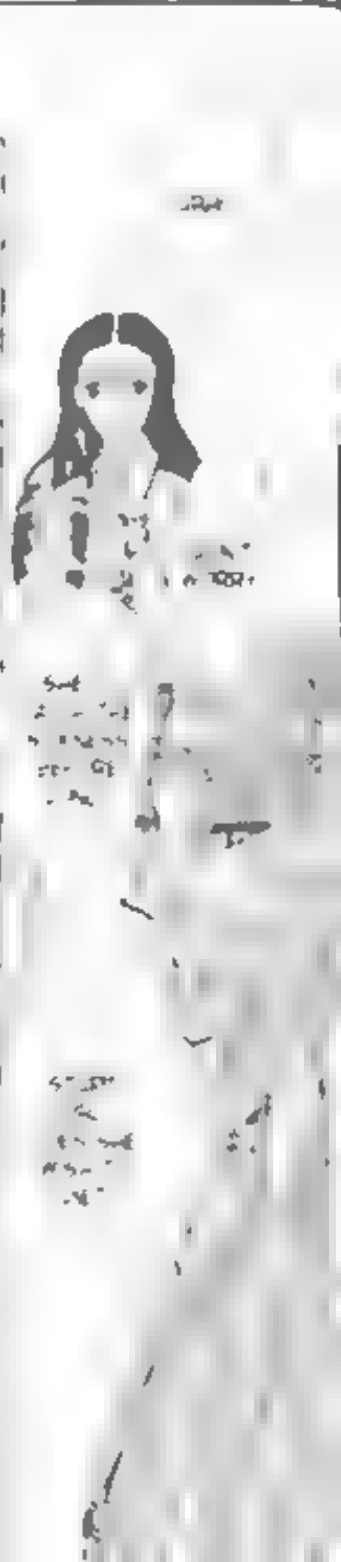
AAAH!
NAW!
WHAT?
THAT GIRL IS GOING FOR THE SICK?
KRAK
KRAK
KRASH
OH!
ASLAN IS VERY STRONG WITH HIM WE CAN HAUL LOTS OF WATER BACK FROM THE SPRING
I'LL HELP YOU CARE FOR THE SICK
WHAAA?
WHERE'S THE HEARTS' WATER?
WHAT?
BUT WHAT I'VE SEEN HERE WOULD HAUNT ME FOREVER IF I RAN AWAY
I'M SCARED
FORGIVE ME FOR ALWAYS DOING THINGS WITHOUT CONSULTING YOU, PRINCE KAIL
I'M SCARED TO DEATH OF THE SEVEN DAY FEVER, BUT I JUST CAN'T ABANDON THESE - OR SICK PEOPLE

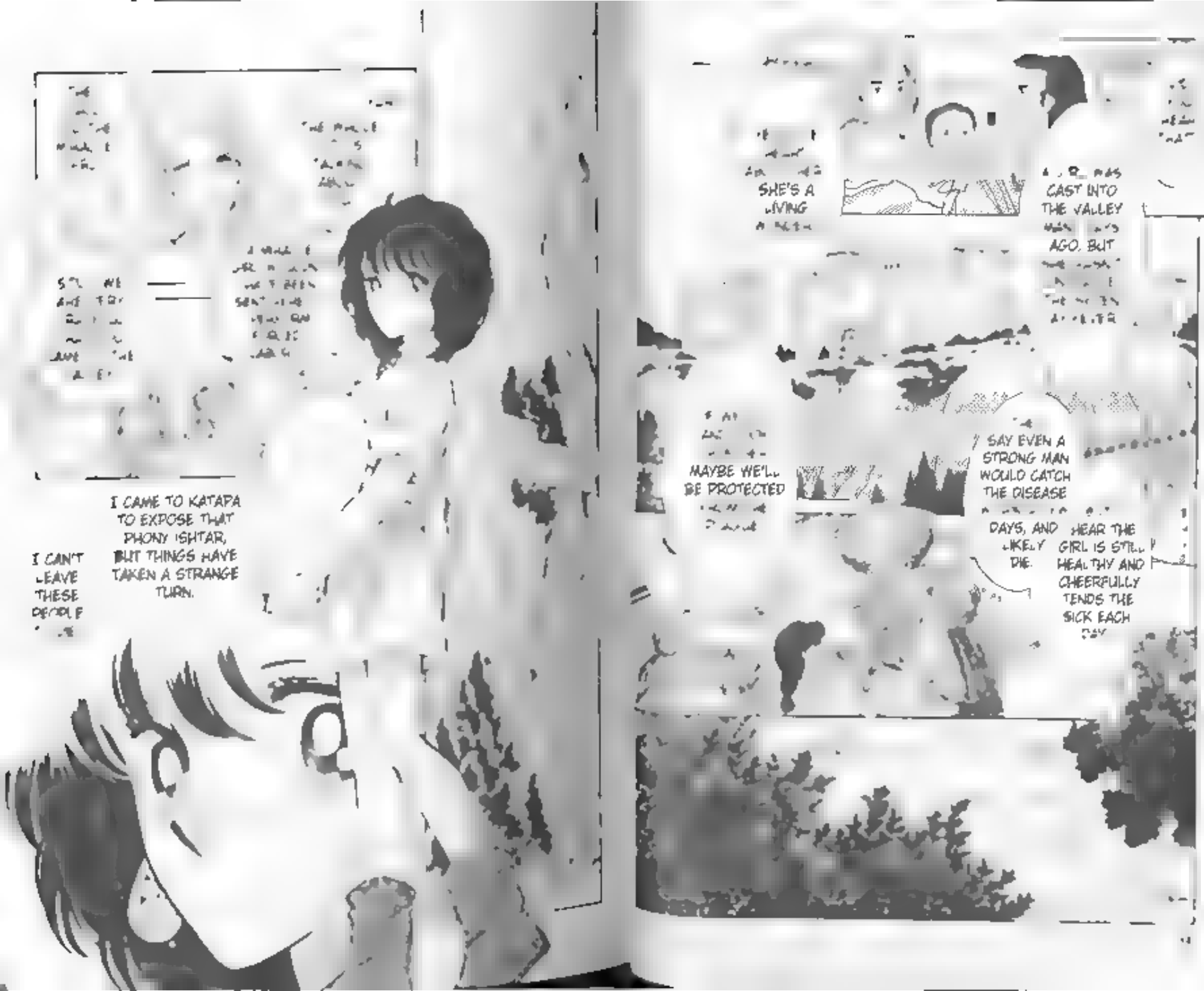
WHY?! WHY DOESN'T THAT LITTLE FOOL CATCH THE SEVEN DAY FEVER?

...R YOU'VE BEEN HERE

BUT WHY HASN'T SHE FALLEN IL

EVEN A STRONG MAN WOULD BE SHOWING OF THE DISEASE BY NOW!




I CAME TO KATAPA TO EXPOSE THAT PHONY ISHTAR, BUT THINGS HAVE TAKEN A STRANGE TURN.
I CAN'T LEAVE THESE
SHE'S A LIVING
AGO. BUT
MAYBE WE'LL BE PROTECTED
I SAY EVEN A STRONG MAN WOULD CATCH THE DISEASE
DAYS, AND LIKELY DIE.
HEAR THE GIRL IS STILL HEALTHY AND CHEERFULLY TENDS THE SICK EACH

I'M GOING TO GET SOME WATER
I'LL GO WITH YOU.
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP
EXCUSE ME ARE YOU THE GIRL FROM THE VALLEY?
PLEASE IMPART SOME OF YOUR DIVINE POWER TO MY CHILD
TO MY CHILD TOO! PLEASE MAKE HER IMMUNE TO THE PLAGUE!
WHAT?
THEY WANT YOU TO SHARE YOUR GOOD LUCK WITH THEM.
JUST PLACE YOUR HAND ON THE CHILDREN'S HEADS.
DIVINE POWER? I DON'T HAVE ANY
IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T CAUGHT THE FEVER
WILL WILL THIS DO?
OH, THANK YOU!
THANK YOU.
I WONDER WHY I HAVEN'T CAUGHT THE SEVEN DAY FEVER?
YOU SAID THAT IF SOMEONE CATCHES IT ONCE HE'D NEVER CATCH IT AGAIN, RIGHT?
COULD I HAVE HAD IT WITHOUT KNOWING IT?

GASP!
I'VE FOUND HER!
OH!
A PHYSICIAN?!
YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO'S IMMUNE TO THE SEVEN DAY FEVER
MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU? I'M A PHYSICIAN.
I'VE FOUND US A DOCTOR
H-HEY WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THAT'S WONDERFUL! WILL YOU TREAT THE SICK PEOPLE IN THE VALLEY?
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE YOU.
ANY NORMAL GIRL WOULD'VE LEFT THIS PLACE THE MOMENT SHE GOT A HORSE UNDER HER
WHEN YOU'RE INFECTED WITH SEVEN DAY FEVER, YOU BREAK OUT IN SORES THAT LEAVE SCARS
DO YOU HAVE ANY SUCH SCARS?
THEN IT IS A MIRACLE AND YOU ARE A MYSTERY

DID YOU HEAR THAT YOUNG MAN
BUT WE'VE
SOMETHING WE MUST DO FOR THESE PEOPLE DIE
LET'S GO ASLAN
KLOP KLOP
THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING
I'M FED UP WITH THE MAYOR AND HIS AIR I'M DONE WITH THE GIRL
WAIT
KLOP
WELL?
HOW DO THEY LOOK?
NOT GOOD
THEY WILL ALL DIE UNLESS CONDITIONS HERE IMPROVE
THAT'S TERRIBLE
THERE ANYTHING WE CAN
I HEARD YOU
WOMAN WHO CALLS HERSELF
INSPIRING THAT'S WHY
THERE IS NO WAY TO SAVE THEM
HE'S TOO AFRAID OF ANGERING PRINCE KAIL'S CONCUBINE
THE MAYOR WOULD NEVER GIVE THEM TO THESE PEOPLE
FAMILY AND THE CITY HALL, RIGHT?

TARRUMP TARRUMP TARRUMP TARRUMP TARRUMP

WHAT'S THIS?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

ISN'T THAT THE GIRL FROM THE VALLEY?

ME TOO! WE'RE SHORTHANDED BECAUSE OF THE SEVEN DAY FEVER THAT THE WHOLE CITY IS RUNNING OUT OF FOOD

WHAT?

THEN I'M GOING TOO

THEY SAY THEY'RE GOING TO THE CITY HALL TO DEMAND MEDICINE AND FOOD FOR THE SICK!

RAAH RAAH

HO! I'LL JOIN YOU!

HOW EXCITING WE'LL STORM THE CITY HALL

I KNEW SHE WAS NO ORDINARY GIRL. BUT

THIS IS AMAZING

THOSE ARISTOCRATS HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD THEY CAN EASILY SPARE SOME FOR US

SURELY THE MAYOR WILL UNDERSTAND IF WE JUST EXPLAIN THE SITUATION

IT'S NOT RIGHT THAT THE SICK AND THE POOR ARE STARVING

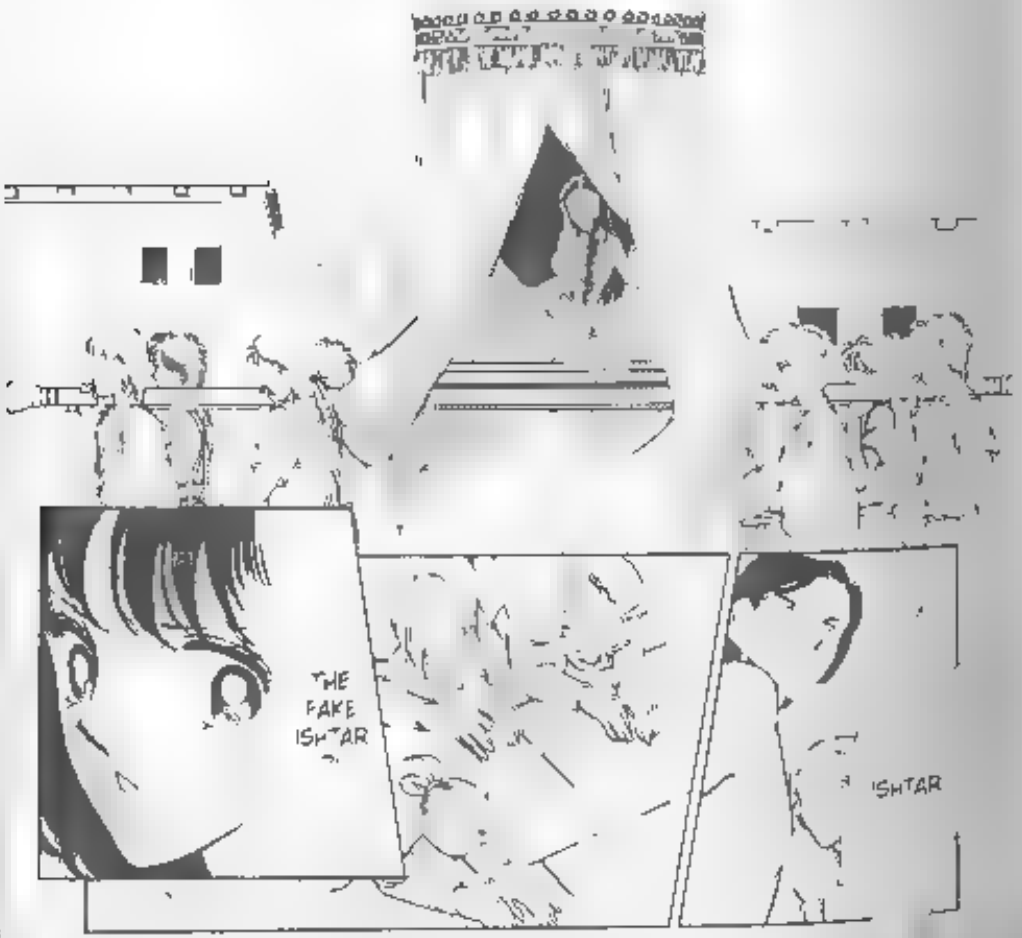
WE WANT TO SPEAK WITH THE MAYOR!

PLEASE GIVE US FOOD AND MEDICINE FOR THE SICK AND THE POOR!

PLEASE GIVE US A BIT OF THE FOOD
FROM ISHTAR'S NIGHTLY BANGLETS'
PLEASE
WE'RE SHORT A WORKERS AND WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF FOOD
WHAT SHALL WE DO?
THE CITIZENS ARE STORMING CITY HALL AND THAT GIRL IS LEADING THE MOB

WILL YOU PLEASE TELL THE MAYOR WE'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO HIM?
DO YOU THINK THE MAYOR NEEDS MEET WITH A LOW-BORN PEASANT GIRL?
SHUT UP YOU!
PWUMP
OFF WITH YOU!
GIVE US FOOD
AND WE'LL LEAVE
ARE YOU HURT?
THE TOWNSPEOPLE?

SILENCE


THE FAKE ISHTAR
ISHTAR

GIVE US MEDICINE
PLEASE
GIVE US FOOD!

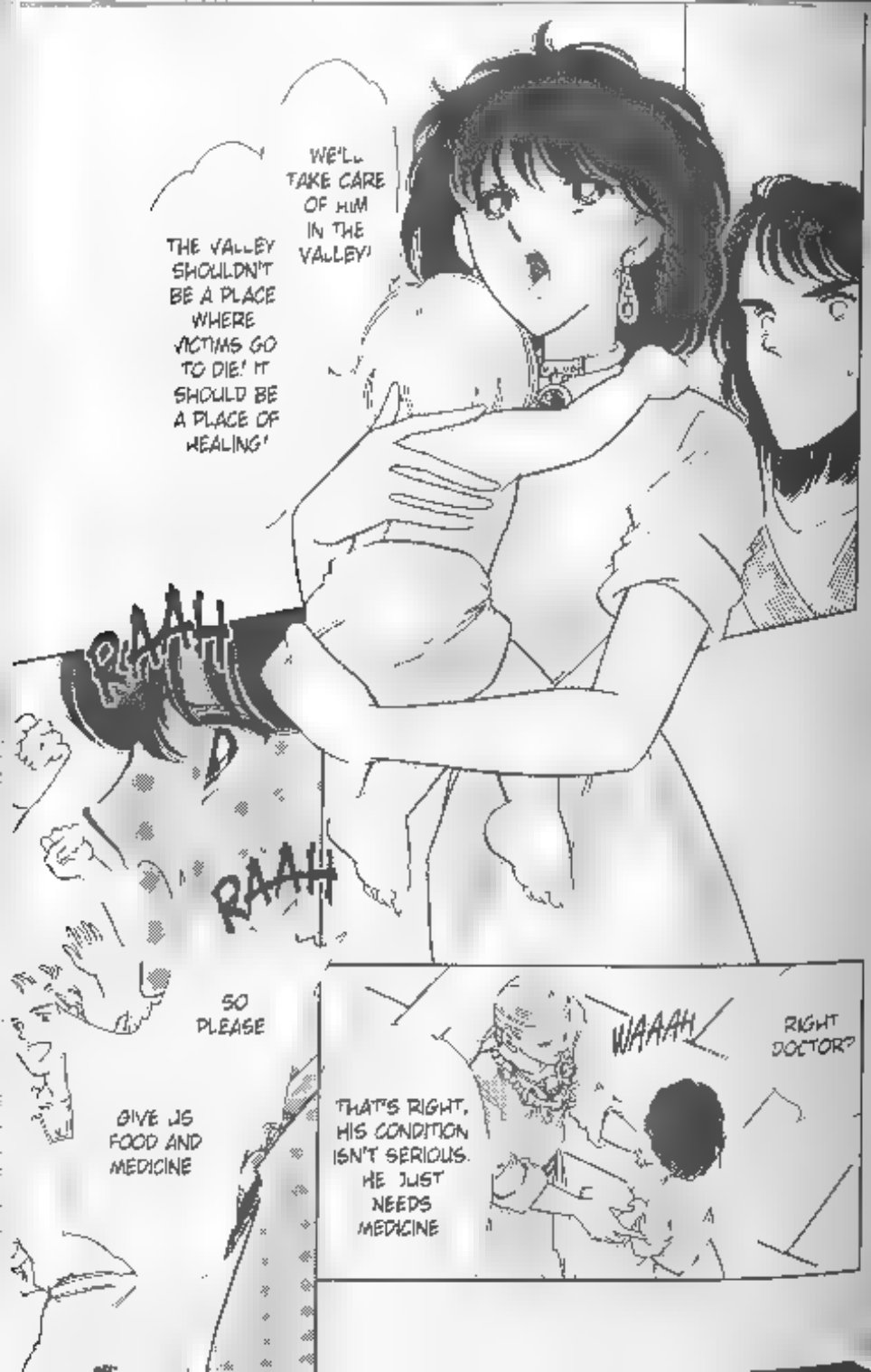
YOU MUSTN'T ALLOW THE RABBLE TO HAVE ITS WAY
JUST EXERCISE YOUR AUTHORITY AS ISHTAR AND COMMAND THEM TO DISPERSE
NEVER FEAR
BUT
DO YOU NOT WISH TO BECOME PRINCE KAIL'S CONCUBINE?
YOU HAVE TO BREAK THAT GIRL

GAS
THE SEVEN DAY FEVER?
TH-THAT CHILD HAS THE SEVEN DAY FEVER
WHY DO YOU HESITATE? THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BOLSTER YOUR POPULARITY
TOUCH THE CHILD'S HEAD.
B-BUT THEY SAID HE HAS THE SEVEN DAY FEVER
AND THAT CHILD IS THE SON OF A RICH MERCHANT IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA TO GAIN HIS FATHER'S SUPPORT
DON'T YOU WANT TO IMPRESS PRINCE KAIL SO HE'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU?

I CAN DO WHATEVER I LIKE WITH MY FOOD
HOW IS ASKING FOR FOOD DEFYING THE EMPIRE?
YOU HAVE SO MUCH FOOD YOU'RE THROWING IT AWAY
WHAT?
OR DO YOU DARE TO DEFY THE EMPIRE?!
WHY ALL THE SCREAMING?
I ORDER YOU TO DISPERSE IMMEDIATELY
PLEASE SHARE YOUR GOOD FORTUNE WITH MY SON.
HISHTAR...

WAAAH!
WHAT A HEART-LESS WOMAN.
WAAAH!
B-BUT EVERYONE FEARS THE SEVEN DAY FEVER
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WAAH!

OH, ISHTAR.
KLAK
HOW DARE YOU BRING A VICTIM OF THE SEVEN DAY FEVER NEAR 'SHTAR
MY SON.
SWIP
NO
I CAN'T TOUCH HIM.


WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM IN THE VALLEY!
THE VALLEY SHOULDN'T BE A PLACE WHERE VICTIMS GO TO DIE! IT SHOULD BE A PLACE OF HEALING!
RAAH
RAAH
SO PLEASE
GIVE US FOOD AND MEDICINE
WAAAH
RIGHT DOCTOR?
THAT'S RIGHT, HIS CONDITION ISN'T SERIOUS. HE JUST NEEDS MEDICINE

IT'S OKAY
YOU'RE A GOOD BOY
WAAAH!
THERE NOW DON'T CRY

I WAS VACCINATED AGAINST LIKE WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
I HAVEN'T SEVEN DAY FEVER! I WAS VACCINATED.
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THE SEVEN DAY FEVER IS, BUT ONE OF MY VACCINATIONS MUST HAVE PROTECTED ME FROM IT
IF YOU DON'T YOU'LL BE UNDERMINING YOURSELF AS ISHTAR
THEM ON PURPOSE?
THAT'S THE CONCEPT OF VACCINATION.
GASP
RAAH
MORE OFTEN THAN ADULTS DO.
RAAH
RAAH
INFECT BABIES WITH A VERY WEAK STRAIN
FEWER PEOPLE WOULD DIE OF THE SEVEN DAY FEVER
THEY COULD DEVELOP AN IMMUNITY

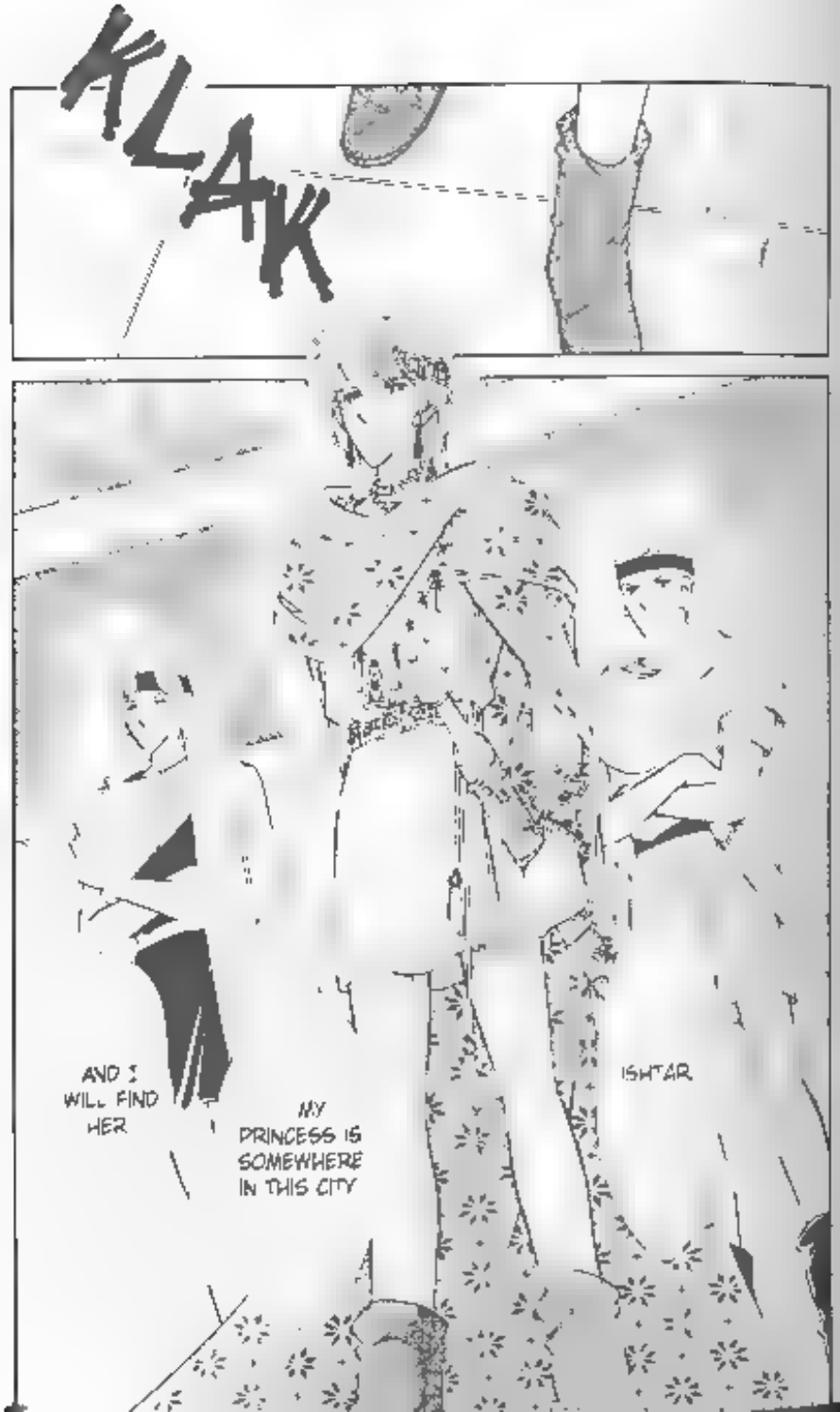
KLANK
GET IN THERE!
LISTEN TO ME! I WANT TO SPEAK TO THE MAYOR.
LET ME OUT
THIS ISN'T JUSTICE
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
NOW I CAN'T GET BACK TO HATTUSA, LET ALONE EXPOSE THAT PHONY ISHTAR
AND I CAN'T EVEN GET WORD TO PRINCE KAIL FROM HERE
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
IT IS UNFORGIVABLE TO DEFY PRINCE KAIL'S CONCUBINE TWICE
KLANK
THROW HER INTO PRISON!
AND ANYONE ELSE WHO DEFIES ISHTAR WILL JOIN HER!

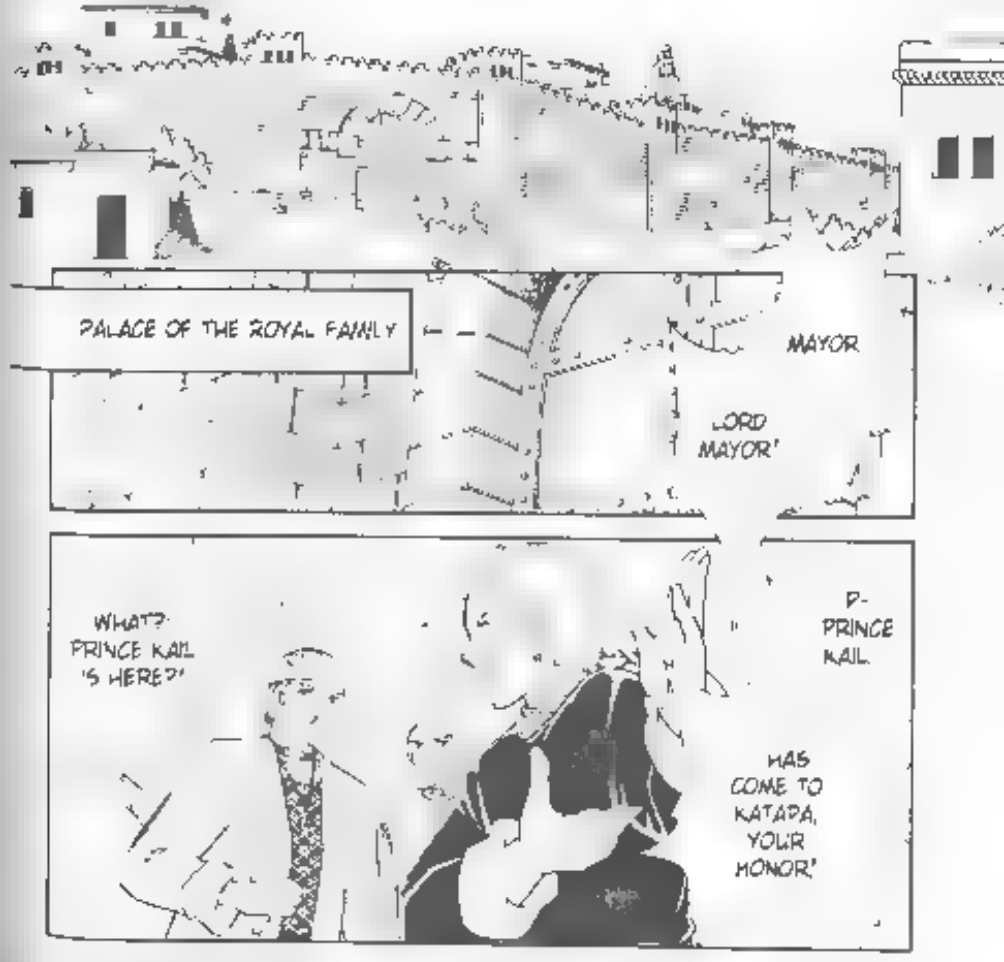
I FAILED TO KILL HER WITH THE SEVEN DAY FEVER, BUT THIS DEVELOPMENT IS MOST PROMISING

NOW I'LL HAVE

LITTLE PEST

HOW ARROGANT OF ME TO THINK THAT HE NEEDED MY HELP
PRINCE KAIL'S APPROACH IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE QUEEN. SHE BUILT THE HOUSES OF REST JUST TO ENHANCE HER OWN POPULARITY
THE PEOPLE KNOW WHO PRINCE KAIL IS I DIDN'T NEED TO WORRY
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT PRINCE KAIL ALWAYS DOES WHAT IS BEST FOR THE EMPIRE AND HIS PEOPLE
THE AID IS BEING GIVEN IN THE NAME OF THE EMPEROR, BUT
PRINCE KAIL REALLY RUNS THIS COUNTRY NO DOUBT IT WAS HIS IDEA.
IT TAKES TIME TO DISTRIBUTE THINGS ACROSS SO VAST AN EMPIRE
I THINK THE AID HAS EVEN REACHED THE VALLEY BY NOW IT'S NO ONE'S FAULT THAT IT TOOK SO LONG FOR THE SUPPLIES TO REACH KATAPA.


KLAK
ISHTAR
MY PRINCESS IS SOMEWHERE IN THIS CITY
AND I WILL FIND HER


PALACE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY
MAYOR
LORD MAYOR!
WHAT? PRINCE KAIL IS HERE?!
P-PRINCE KAIL
HAS COME TO KATAPA, YOUR HONOR!

KATAPA WITH OPEN ARMS AND A HEART FILLED WITH GRATIT..DE

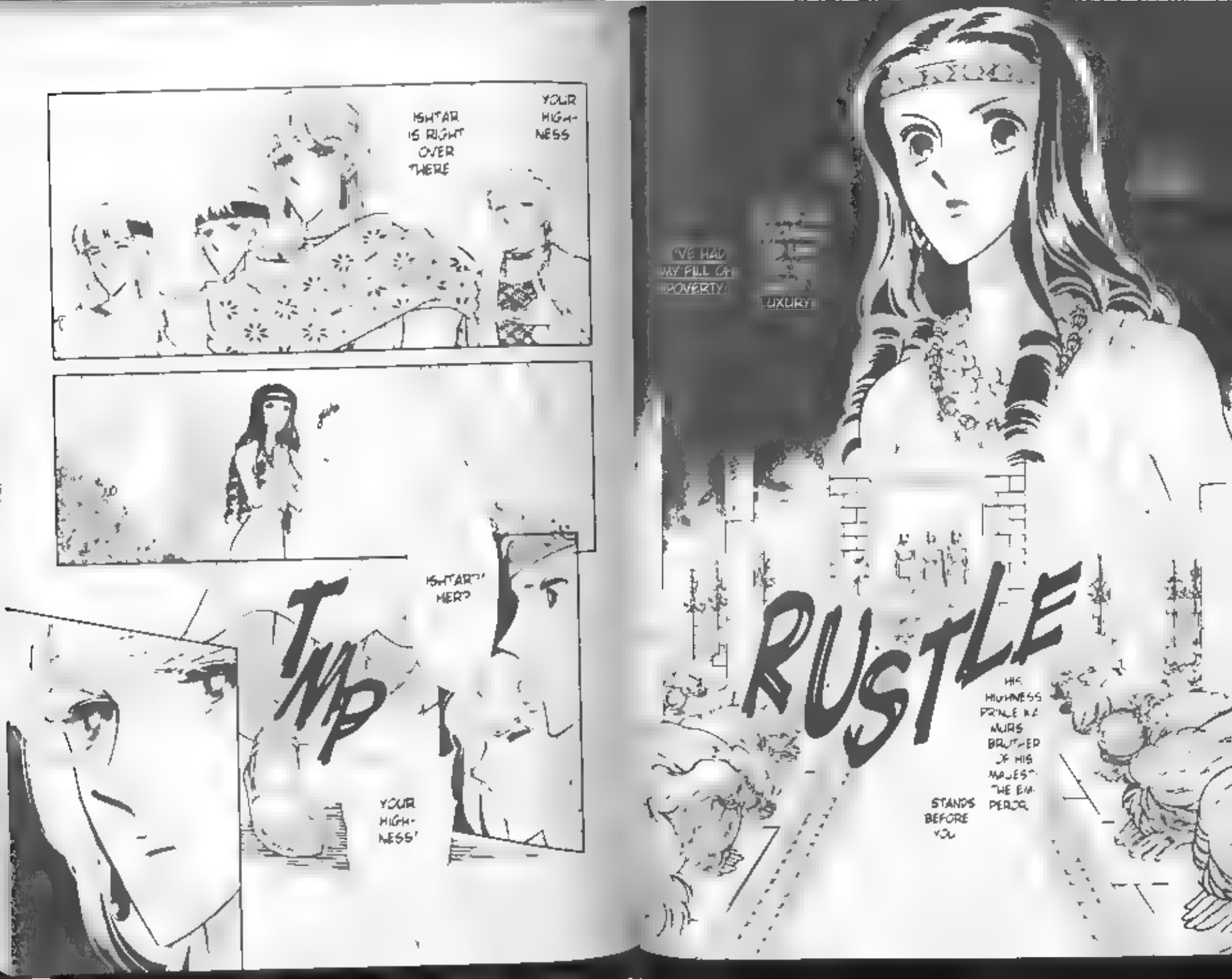
I WAS THROWN

BEING CALLED ISHTAR MUST HAVE GIVEN ME A BIG HEAD

I'M STILL

PLIP

Y-YES, I DID BUT
NO NEED TO PANIC
YOU TOLD ME YOU COULD MAKE PRINCE KAIL FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
BUT THAT PLAN WON'T WORK NOW
WHAT SHALL I DO? I DIDN'T EXPECT PRINCE KAIL TO COME HERE
IF YOU CAN MAKE HIM LOVE YOU THEN THE FALSE ISHTAR CAN BECOME THE REAL ONE
IT'S A GRAVE CRIME TO IMPERSONATE ISHTAR
THE REAL ONE?
IF YOU WANT TO AVOID PUNISHMENT YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SEDUCE THE PRINCE
I'M HERE ONLY TO BRING ISHTAR HOME
DON'T BOTHER
I'LL HAVE QUARTERS PREPARED FOR YOU IMMEDIATELY
IF I HAD KNOWN YOU WERE COMING I WOULD HAVE GONE TO THE BORDER TO WELCOME YOU.
TAKE ME TO THE HALL
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS THIS WAY PLEASE!
AH, YES. ISHTAR IS IN THE BACK HALL
SHE IS TRULY AN ENCHANTING CREATURE


ISHTAR IS RIGHT OVER THERE
YOUR HIGH-NESS
I'VE HAD MY FILL OF POVERTY
LUXURY
TAP
ISHTAR?
HER?
YOUR HIGH-NESS'
RUSTLE
HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE KA-NURS BROTHER OF HIS MAJESTY THE EM-PEROR
STANDS BEFORE YOU

DO YOU NOT DESIRE ME?
B-BUT YOUR HIGHNESS ARE SO BEAUTIFUL
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF
HUMEN OF GREATER BEAUTY
ARE WITH MORE ABUNDANT BODILY GRACE IN THE MARKET SQUARE OF HATTUSA
IS THIS WOMAN NOT ISHTAR?
PRAISE HA WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
THAT A DRINK AGAINST THE ROYAL FAMILY
IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH.
YOUR HIGHNESS LOVE YOU SO
I'VE LONGED FOR THIS MOMENT
IT SEEMS THAT YOUR FAVORITE FLAVOR HUMAN HAS MADE YOU FURIOUS
SWUP
I PROMISE I'LL NEVER BORE YOU.
PLEASE LOVE ME AS YOU DO ISHTAR
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR USING THE NAME OF ISHTAR. I ONLY DID IT OUT OF LOVE FOR YOU

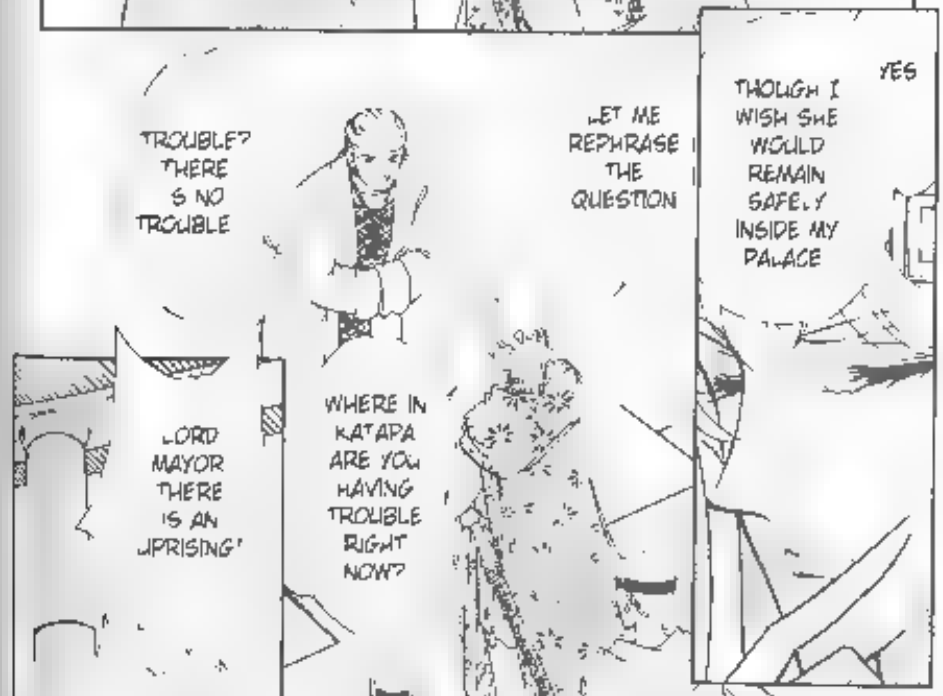
SHE'S ACCOMPANIED BY A PRIEST WHO ACTS AS HER GUARDIAN HE ALWAYS KEEPS HIS FACE COVERED WITH A BLACK SHAWL
HOW DARE SHE IMPERSONATE SHITAR
ARREST HER
OH!
THEN WHAT OF HER MAN?
THROB
IMPERSONATE SHE'S AN IMPOSTOR
THROB
THIS WOMAN BEFORE
I'VE NEVER SEEN
WUZZ

A MOB HAS STORMED THE CITY HALL AND IS DEMANDING THE JAIL BE OPENED
FORGIVE ME YOUR HONOR
BUT THE CITIZENS ARE RIOTING

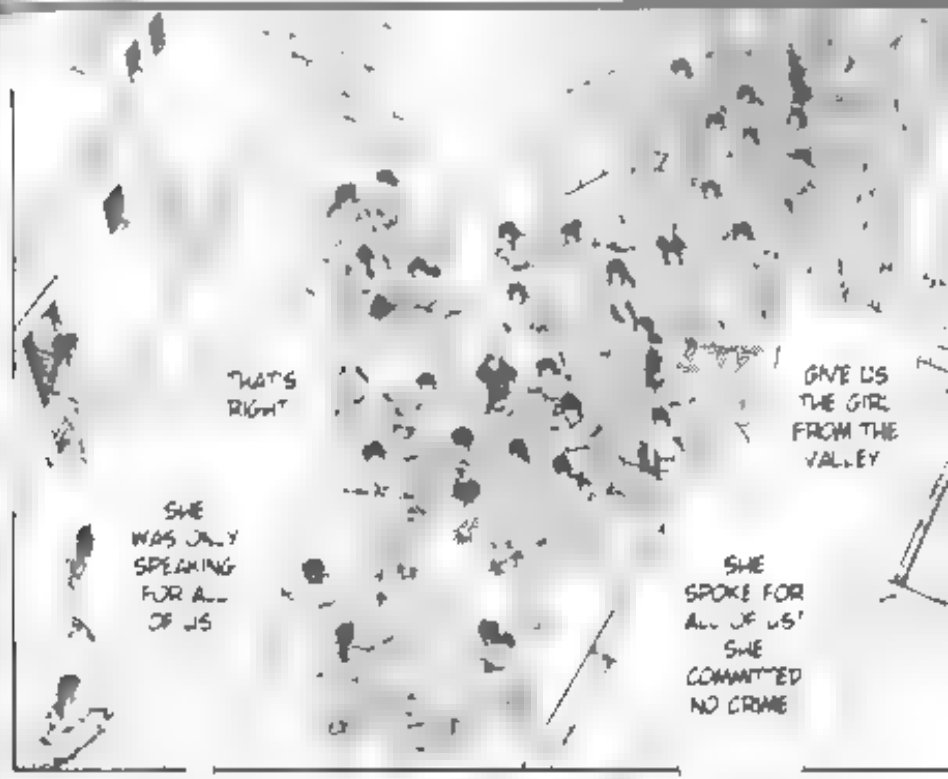
WHAT? THEY'RE BREAKING INTO THE JAIL?

RAAH
RAAH

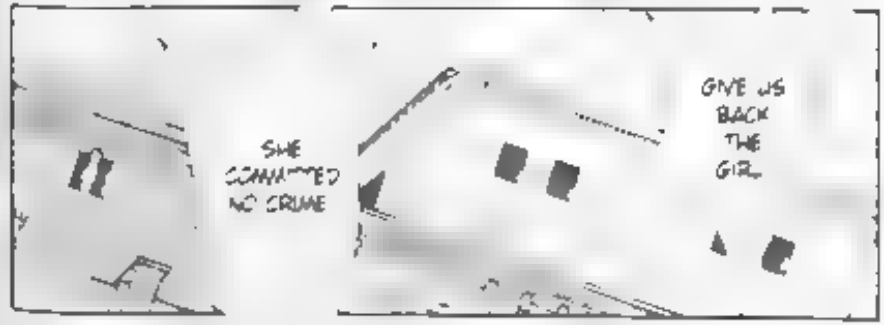
EH?
THE REAL ISHTAR IS ALSO IN KATAPA?
WHERE IS SHE?
MAYOR
I CAME HERE TO TAKE THE REAL ISHTAR HOME.


TROUBLE? THERE IS NO TROUBLE
LET ME REPHRASE THE QUESTION
YES
THOUGH I WISH SHE WOULD REMAIN SAFELY INSIDE MY PALACE
LORD MAYOR THERE IS AN UPRISING!
WHERE IN KATAPA ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE RIGHT NOW?
SILENCE, YOU ROGUE!
THIS IS HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE KAIL!

AGH
KRAK
KRASH
KRASH
BOOM
WHAT'S THAT?
WUMP
BOOM
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
WE'RE HERE TO GET YOU OUT!
YURI
KWIK?


THAT'S RIGHT
GIVE US THE GIRL FROM THE VALLEY
SHE WAS ONLY SPEAKING FOR ALL OF US
SHE SPOKE FOR ALL OF US! SHE COMMITTED NO CRIME

LET HER GO OR WE'LL STORM THE JAIL
HUSBAND
EVERYONE ELSE REFUSED TO TOUCH HIM, BUT SHE HELD HIM AND SAID SHE WOULD CARE FOR HIM.
THAT GIRL HELD MY SON WHO HAS THE SEVEN DAY FEVER.


SHE COMMITTED NO CRIME
GIVE US BACK THE GIRL

WHAT HAVE I DONE?
I'VE BEEN NO HELP TO PRINCE KAIL AT ALL
I GOT MYSELF THROWN INTO PRISON AND HAD TO BE SAVED BY THESE PEOPLE
INSTEAD OF EXPOSING THAT WOMAN AS A FAKE
I CAN BE SAD LATER.
I SHOULD SHOW THEM MY GRATITUDE FOR RESCUING ME.
ALL RIGHT! LET ME HELP DISTRIBUTE THE SOUP!
HERE, HAVE SOME SOUP WE HAVE DRIED MEAT TOO
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK SAD
THANK THE GODS YOU'RE BACK! HOW ARE YOU?
DID THEY MISTREAT YOU?
THANK YOU FOR FREEING ME
I'M SORRY I CAUSED YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE
THE WAY YOU SHOUTED AT THE MAYOR AND ISHTAR INSPIRED US ALL!
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING? WE WANT TO THANK YOU!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
YOU'LL ALL BE PUNISHED TOO.
THEY CAN'T ARREST ALL OF US!
HE'S RIGHT ALMOST THE WHOLE CITY IS INVOLVED
WE DON'T CARE.
LIFE IS MUCH BETTER THERE
SINCE PRINCE KAIL HAD FOOD AND MEDICINE BROUGHT TO US.
LET'S RETURN TO THE VALLEY
WELCOME BACK!
WELCOME BACK
OH! THEY'RE BACK!

EH?
SHE WAS ALWAYS LOVELY
I THOUGHT SHE WAS ONLY A CHILD BUT SHE GROWS LOVELIER ALL THE TIME
IF YOU ARE TO BE A LEADER, YOU'LL NEED A GOOD WOMAN BY YOUR SIDE
THE MAYOR'S SON! YOU HAVE A GOOD EYE FOR WOMEN.
WILL YOU NOT INHERIT YOUR FATHER'S POSITION AS MAYOR ONE DAY?
THE WIFE OF THE LATE EMPEROR, QUEEN NAKIA, AND ISHTAR ARE PROOF OF THAT
IT'S TRAGIC THE WAY A BAD WOMAN CAN UNDERMINE A GREAT MAN'S ACHIEVEMENTS.
BUT THAT GIRL, YURI, IS THE OPPOSITE OF THOSE TWO
I BELIEVE SHE WOULD MAKE AN EXCELLENT QUEEN.
SHE'S FROM AN ALIEN RACE AND SHE HAS LITTLE WOMANLY CHARM, YET

YES SHE'S TINY AND YET SO FULL OF LIFE.
I COULD WATCH HER ALL DAY
THAT GIRL.
LOOKS SO BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S WORKING HARD
SHE'S NOT STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL, BUT
SHE SEEMS TO GROW MORE BEAUTIFUL BEFORE ONE'S VERY EYES.
SHE'S A MOST INTERESTING GIRL

WHAT ?!
HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE KAIL MURSIL IS HERE.
P-PRINCE KAIL?!
PRINCE KAIL
IN THE FLESH ?!
HE NEEDS TO DEVELOP A GOOD EYE FOR WOMEN!
THAT IN ADDITION TO LEADER-SHIP AND MARTIAL PROWESS
IF I EVER MEET PRINCE KAIL, I'LL TELL HIM,
I I'M NOT
BLUSH
TUP
THAT WILL COME IN TIME!
SO WHAT IF SHE LACKS WOMANLY CHARM?
HE NEEDS A GIRL LIKE YURI!
SILENCE!!
COMPORT YOUR-SELVES.
WITH REVERENCE

PLEASE HEAR ME, YOUR HIGHNESS!
I... I DO HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO PRINCE KAIL.
WHAT A RUDE FELLOW!
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO HIS HIGHNESS DIRECTLY
IT'S ALL RIGHT I'LL HEAR HIS WORDS
WHAT?!
BUT FIRST BRING ISHTAR TO ME

LOWER YOUR HEAD GIRL
WHAT'S PRINCE KAIL DOING HERE?
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING TO PRINCE KAIL?
WELL?
ARE YOU INSANE?!
PERHAPS HE'S ANGRY BECAUSE WE ATTACKED THE CITY HALL?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
WH-WHY IS PRINCE KAIL HERE?

BLACK HAIR
AND BLACK EYES.
OF COURSE WE DO.
ISHTAR HAS.
A PRINCESS FROM A FAR LAND
AND SHE'S A PRINCESS FROM A... FAR LAND
BLACK EYES!
BLACK HAIR
AND SHE HAS AN UNUSUAL BEAUTY THAT ATTRACTS EVERYONE TO HER.

WUZZ
WUZZ
ISHTAR IS IN THE PALACE ON THE HILL. IS SHE NOT?
ISHTAR
DO YOU PEOPLE KNOW WHAT ISHTAR LOOKS LIKE?

IS. IS T POSSIBLE?
AND WHEN SHE DOES THIS. I LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT WORRYING ABOUT HER
BUT MY ISHTAR SOMETIMES FLIES FROM ME LIKE A BIRD.

I COULD WATCH HER ALL DAY
AN UNUSUAL BEAUTY
THAT ATTRACTS EVERY-ONE
SHE SEEMS TO GROW MORE BEAUTIFUL BEFORE ONE S VERY EYES.
I AM VERY MUCH IN LOVE WITH HER
AS EVERYONE IN THE EMPIRE KNOWS.

YURI IS THE REAL SHTAR ?!
OH!
I I M SORRY PRINCE KAIL
DID YOU KNOW THAT YURI?

KIKKURI. KASH
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE PRINCE KAIL
THE SEVEN DAY FEVER
AS AM I WE WERE AFRAID YOU'D CONTRACTED
PRINCESS YURI, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT
I WANTED TO COME HERE SOONER, BUT
I HAD AFFAIRS OF STATE TO ATTEND TO FORGIVE ME
PRINCE KAIL
LET ME INTRODUCE HER TO YOU. THIS IS MY ONE AND ONLY PRINCESS.
SHE IS THE WOMAN THEY CALL ISHTAR
SHE. SHE CAN'T BE
THE GIRL WE THREW IN JAIL WAS ISHTAR?
SHAKE SHAKE
YURI IS THE REAL ISHTAR?
AND SHE'S PRINCE KAIL'S CONCUBINE.

PUT ME DOWN, PRINCE KAIL.
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING WORTHY OF YOUR PRAISE
YURI?
I CAME TO THIS TOWN BECAUSE I COULDN'T STAND IT THAT A FAKE ISHTAR WAS TARNISHING YOUR REPU-TATION
BUT I'M AFRAID I MAY HAVE DAMAGED YOUR REPU-TATION TOO.

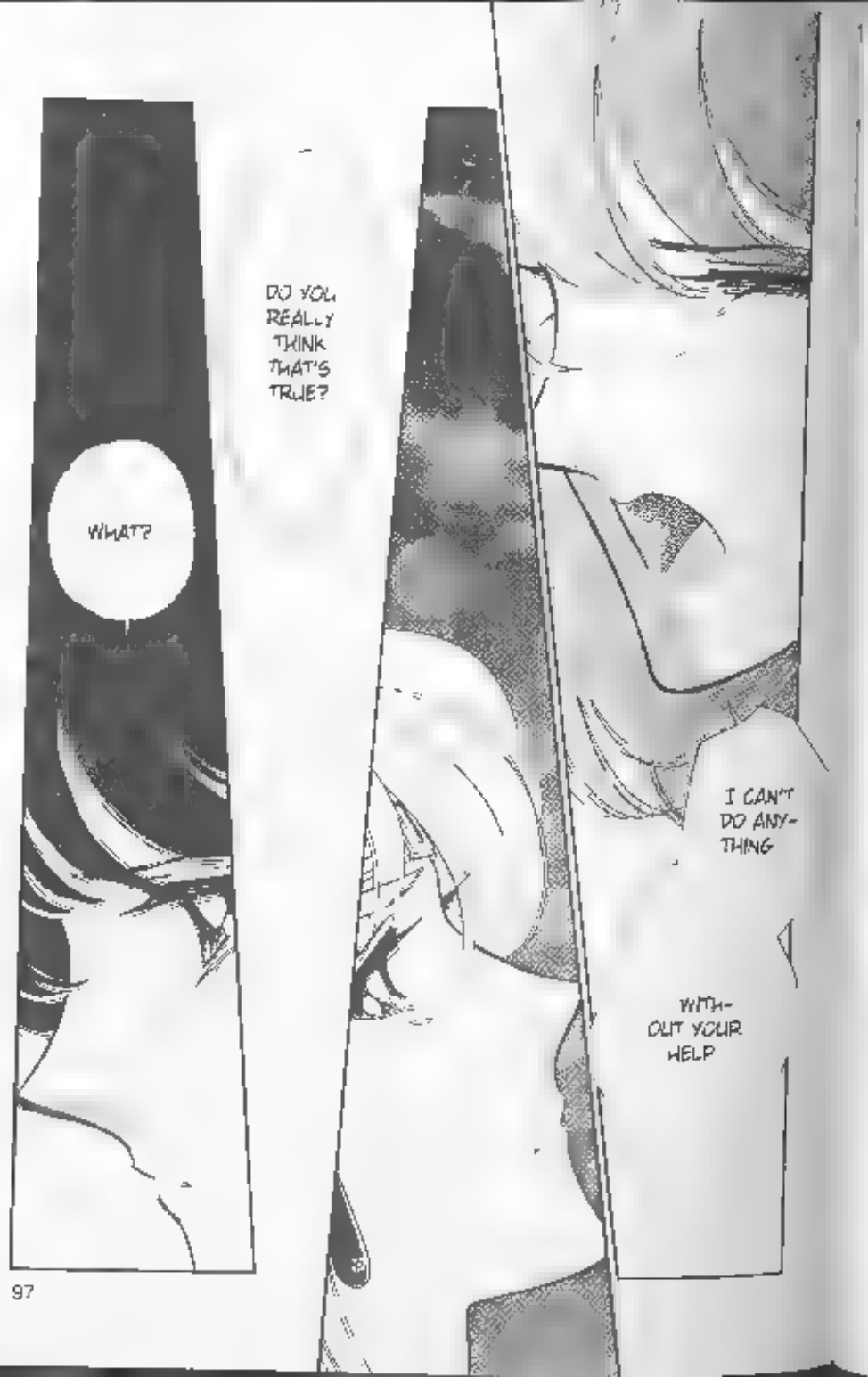
THROB
THROB
WHAT HAPPENED?
I WAS THROWN INTO JAIL
...AND THE PEOPLE HAD TO BREAK ME OUT

PLEASE
PUT ME DOWN.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE, PRINCE KAIL
WHAT IF YOU GET INFECTED?

SINCE I AM WITH ISHTAR, I SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT
I HEAR YOU HAVEN'T CONTRACTED THE DISEASE
THE TOWNS-PEOPLE SAY THAT YOUR BLESSING CAN PROTECT ONE FROM THE FEVER.

THAT'S NOT TRUE IT'S JUST A RUMOR.
WON'T YOU GIVE ME YOUR BLESSING?
I CAN'T
I'M NOT THE SAINT THE PEOPLE THINK I AM!


WHAT?
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S TRUE?
I CAN'T DO ANY-THING
WITH-OUT YOUR HELP

AND I WASN'T ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE FAKE ISHTAR
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I WAS VACCINATED IN JAPAN.
IT'S NOT BECAUSE I DID SOMETHING GOOD FOR THIS TOWN THAT I DIDN'T GET THE DISEASE.
OH NO. I PROMISED MYSELF I'D KEEP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE. BUT
AS SOON AS I SAW PRINCE KAIL I STARTED TO FEEL BAD ABOUT MYSELF
..AND NOW I'M WHINING

OH. NO. I DON'T NEED TO SAY IT ANYMORE
PLEASE FORGET WHAT I SAID
DON'T HOLD BACK TELL ME
HE NEEDS TO DEVELOP A GOOD EYE FOR WOMEN!
PLIP
IN ADDITION TO STRONG LEADERSHIP AND MILITARY EXPERTISE
GULP
I
I WANTED TO SAY

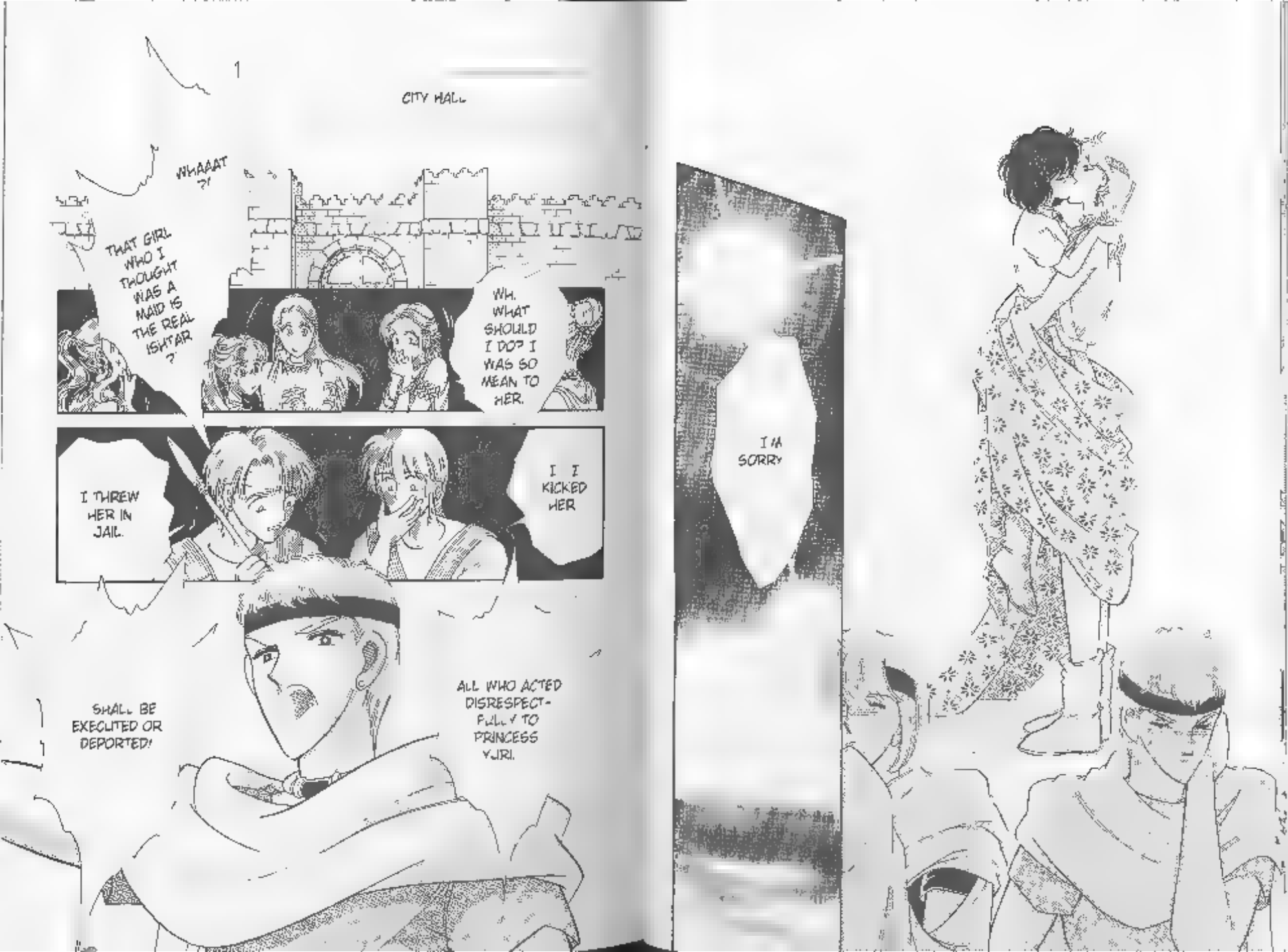
YOU WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING TO ME EARLIER. I WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY
TELL ME NOW
SOLDIER!
HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT I'M TALKING TO YOU.
I MEAN YOU WITH BEARD
YOU'RE IN KATAPA'S INFANTRY, AREN'T YOU?

WHO CHOSES YURI AS HIS WOMAN.
TO OFFER MY LIFE AT ANY TIME FOR THE MAN.
I WILL BE HAPPY
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT

...THE BREAKOUT AT THE CITY PRISON.
W-WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT
THAT THE LADY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR.
WE TOOK IT UPON OURSELVES BECAUSE WE LIKE HER SO MUCH
I I'M VERY PLEASED TO LEARN.
THAT MISS YURI IS THE REAL ISHTAR.

I WISH YOU WERE THE SORT OF WOMAN.
WHO ALWAYS NEEDED MY HELP
RAH
R
YOU HAVE THE BEST CONCUBINE OF THE ORIENT AT YOUR SIDE!
HAIL TO HIS HIGH-NESS!
PRINCE ?
!
A
A
H
PRINCE KAIL
YOU ARE AN EXCELLENT LEADER!
LONG LIVE
PRINCE KAIL!
LONG LIVE ISHTAR!

IF YOU REALLY FEEL SORRY FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.
I WANT YOU TO APOLOGIZE BY KISSING ME.
NOW BLESS ME WITH YOUR KISS.
PRINCE KAIL ?!
RAAH
RAAAH
WHY DO I HAVE TO KISS YOU NOW?
I WON'T LET YOU DOWN UNTIL YOU KISS ME.
I WOULD.
BE VERY HAPPY TO PROTECT YOU.


1
CITY HALL
WHAAAT ?!
THAT GIRL WHO I THOUGHT WAS A MAID IS THE REAL ISHTAR ?
WH. WHAT SHOULD I DO? I WAS SO MEAN TO HER.
I THREW HER IN JAIL.
I I KICKED HER
SHALL BE EXECUTED OR DEPORTED!
ALL WHO ACTED DISRESPECT-FULLY TO PRINCESS YURI.
I'M SORRY

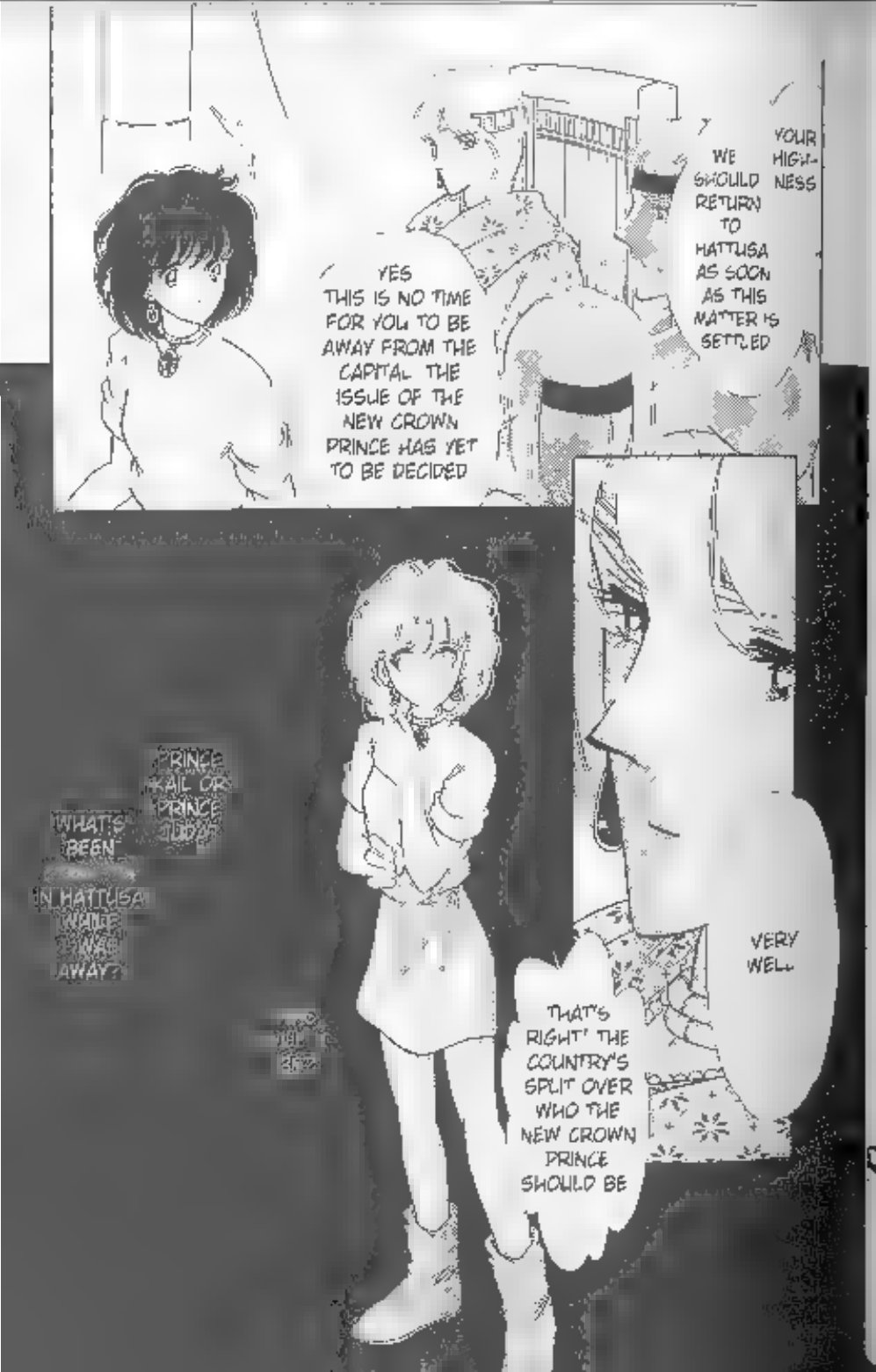
THIS WOMAN?
BUT WHAT SHALL BE.
THE PUNISHMENT FOR THIS WOMAN?
.FOR FORGIVING ME!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU.
THUD
HAS HE BEEN CAPTURED?
THERE WAS A MAN DIRECTING HER ACTIONS.
THE FALSE ISHTAR?

EEK!
WELL, YOU SHOULD
ALL THANK THE GODS.
THAT NEITHER PRINCE KAL NOR ISHTAR WOULD EVER DEMAND
SO SEVERE A PUNISH-MENT.
PHEW
YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS
THAT'S ENOUGH. KASH.
YURI IS ALSO AT FAULT FOR NOT PRESENTING HERSELF AS A PRINCESS.

I WAS BORN IN A POOR VILLAGE ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER.
IT WAS WIPED OUT BY THE SEVEN DAY FEVER.
I DIDN'T CARE IF I WAS FOUND OUT!
I WANTED LUXURY AND SECURITY IF ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME
MY PARENTS AND LITTLE BROTHERS DIED AFTER SUFFERING TERRIBLY

HE WILL SOON BE APPREHENDED
I SENT MY MEN TO ARREST HIM.
SHE'S LUCKY ENOUGH TO KEEP HER HEAD
SEND HER OFF TO SOME REMOTE CORNER OF THE EMPIRE AS A SLAVE!
I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED A CASE LIKE THIS BEFORE
WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THE WOMAN?
YOU MUST'VE KNOWN YOU'D BE FOUND OUT SOONER OR LATER
MISS.
WHY DID YOU DO IT?

WE CAN'T BRING THIS TREACHEROUS CREATURE INTO THE PALACE!
EVERY GIRL IN THE EMPIRE DREAMS OF SERVING IN THE IMPERIAL COURT!
BUT THAT'S NO PUNISHMENT!
ATCHOO!
HADI AND HER SISTERS TRIED TO MURDER ME ONCE
VERY WELL, URSULA
ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE PRINCESS YURI?
WHAT IS YOUR REAL NAME?
U- URSULA, YOUR HIGHNESS.
IS THAT ACCEPTABLE TO YOU, PRINCE KAIL?
THE SEVEN DAY FEVER HAS CLAIMED THOUSANDS OF LIVES.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS SUFFERED!
SHE DESERVES BONDAGE AND SERVITUDE
I NEVER WANTED TO HAVE TO EAT THE ROOTS OF TREES TO SURVIVE AGAIN!
I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE MISERABLY LIKE THEY DID!
THEN IT'S SETTLED! SHE'LL BE BANISHED TO A REMOTE OUTPOST
PRINCESS YURI?
I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE HER WORK
I AGREE
SO SHE WILL WORK FOR ME AS MY HANDMAID
WE'RE SHORT ON STAFF AT THE PALACE
I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.


YOUR HIGHNESS
WE SHOULD RETURN TO HATTUSA AS SOON AS THIS MATTER IS SETTLED
YES THIS IS NO TIME FOR YOU TO BE AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL. THE ISSUE OF THE NEW CROWN PRINCE HAS YET TO BE DECIDED
PRINCE KAIL OR PRINCE ITO?
WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN HATTUSA WHILE WE WERE AWAY?
VERY WELL
THAT'S RIGHT! THE COUNTRY'S SPLIT OVER WHO THE NEW CROWN PRINCE SHOULD BE

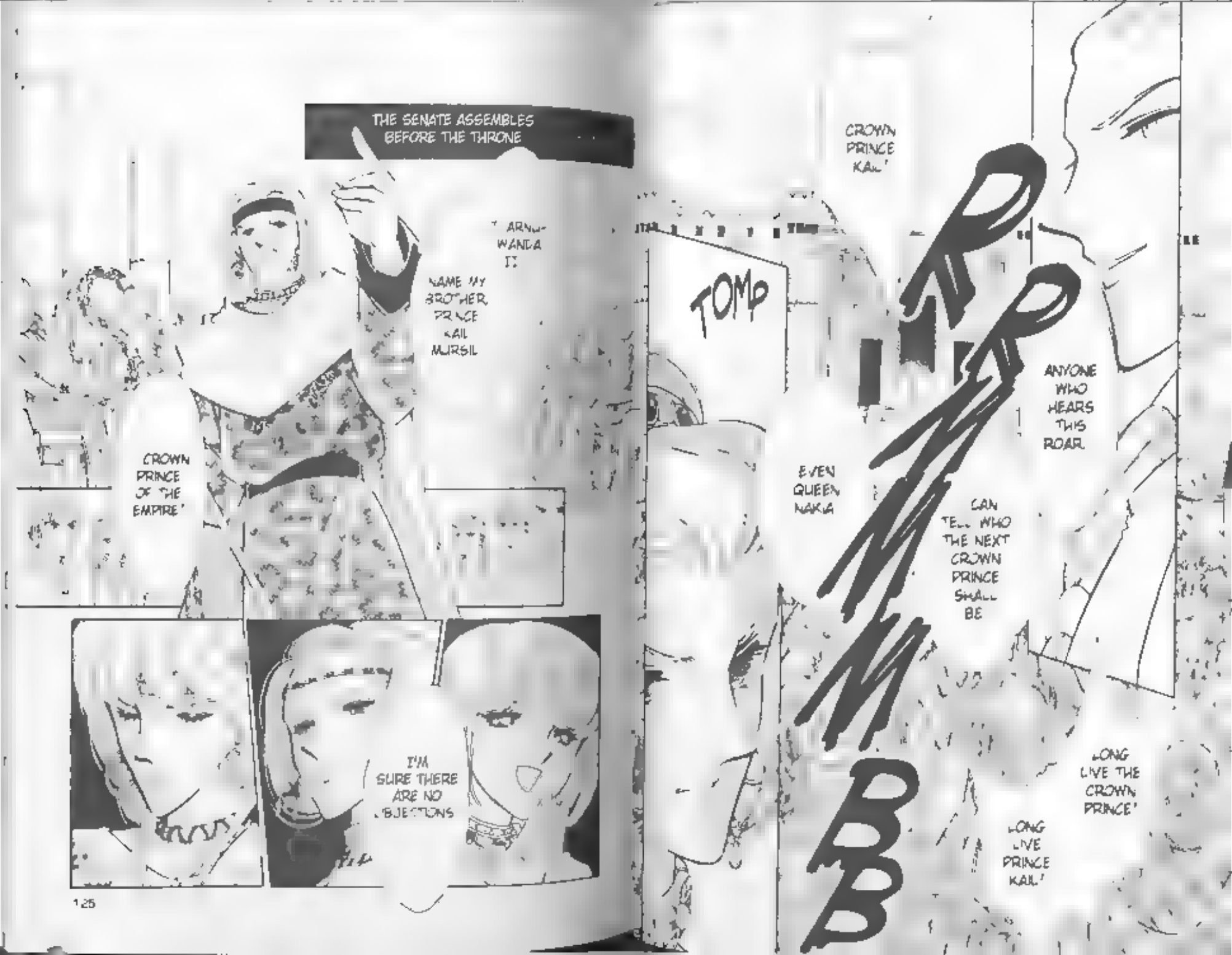
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS. WITH ALL MY HEART
I LOST MY FAMILY TO THAT SICKNESS, YET I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TOUCH THE CHILD
SHE PICKED UP A CHILD WHO HAD THE SEVEN DAY FEVER.
SHE'S A FAR BETTER PERSON THAN I AM.
I WOULD BE HONORED TO SERVE THE REAL ISHTAR.
NOW SHE'S ALLOWING ME TO WORK FOR HER IN THE PALACE

HATTUSA, CAPITAL OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE
WELCOME HOME, PRINCESS YURI!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! THANK THE GODS
OH
HELLO, GIRLS.
HI, ILBANI. I'M SORRY I WORRIED EVERYONE
I'M GLAD YOU'VE RETURNED SAFELY PRINCESS
IS THERE ANY WORD ABOUT WHO WILL BE THE NEW CROWN PRINCE?
THE COMMONERS ARE THE KEY
OF COURSE. THEIR VOICE WON'T COUNT AS MUCH AS THE ARISTOCRATS'
AND QUEEN NAKIA IS WORKING HARD TO BOLSTER HER SON'S POPULARITY I CAN'T SAY HOW IT WILL TURN OUT
IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP PRINCE KAIL?
THE ARISTOCRATS SUPPORT QUEEN NAKIA, WHILE PRINCE KAIL HAS THE ARMY BEHIND HIM. THE SENATE IS DIVIDED ALMOST EVENLY
RIGHT NOW IT COULD GO EITHER WAY
THE SENATE?
AT ANY RATE. THE DECISION WILL BE MADE IN THE NEXT SESSION OF THE SENATE.

WHAT A HUGE CROWD! HATTUSA IS PACKED!
OF COURSE THE CITIZENS RARELY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE ROYAL FAMILY
THERE'S THE QUEEN DOWAGER
PRINCESS YURI
A PUBLIC CELEBRATION? HOW FUN.
YES. IT SHOULD BE QUITE FESTIVE. MULTITUDES WILL BE GOING TO HATTUSA TO ATTEND
I CAME BACK TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY
BEFORE THE SENATE CONVENES THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC CELEBRATION FOR MY BROTHER'S CORONATION.
I'M MORE INTERESTED IN WHO THE NEW CROWN PRINCE WILL BE
RAHAHA
RAHAHA

PRINCE!
RRUMBB
PRINCESS YURI HERE COMES PRINCE KAIL
LONG LIVE
THE QUEEN DOWAGER!
PRINCE JUDA.
HARAHARAHARA
I CAN'T BELIEVE SO MANY PEOPLE ARE CHEERING FOR NAKIA
AND MANY OF THEM ARE COMMONERS!

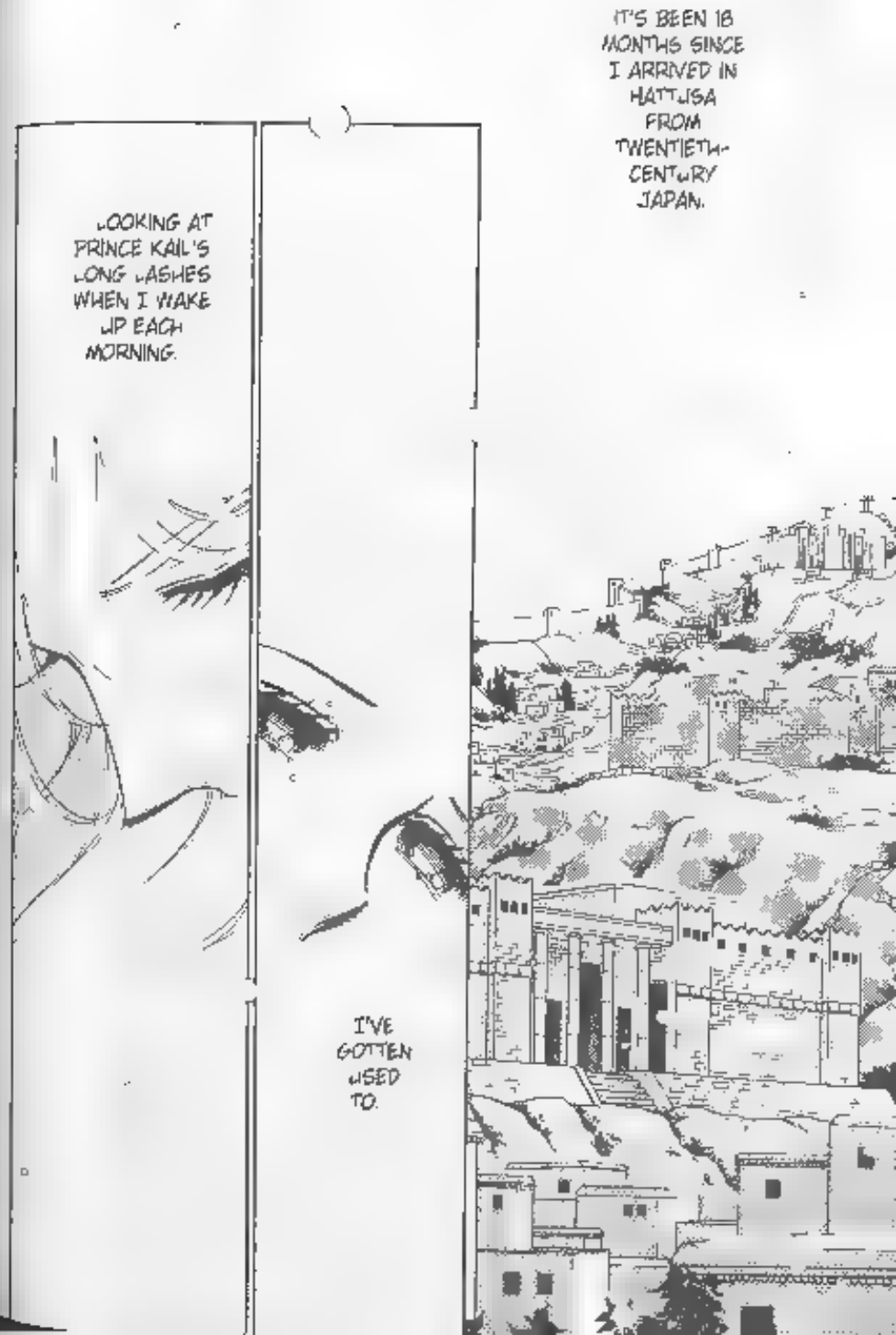
OH
WH-WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
THE WHOLE CITY IS TREMBLING
LONG LIVE PRINCE KAIL!!
LONG LIVE ISHTAR !!
LONG LIVE THE CROWN PRINCE!!
LONG LIVE PRINCE KAIL!!


THE SENATE ASSEMBLES BEFORE THE THRONE
I ARNU- WANDA II
NAME MY BROTHER PRINCE KAIL MURSIL
CROWN PRINCE OF THE EMPIRE'
I'M SURE THERE ARE NO OBJECTIONS
CROWN PRINCE KAIL'
TOMP
EVEN QUEEN NAKIA
ANYONE WHO HEARS THIS ROAR
CAN TELL WHO THE NEXT CROWN PRINCE SHALL BE
LONG LIVE THE CROWN PRINCE'
LONG LIVE PRINCE KAIL'

CURSE YOU, KAIL. I'LL SEE THAT YOUR TENURE AS CROWN PRINCE IS SHORT-LIVED!
CONGRATULATIONS, PRINCE KAIL!!
HAIL THE NEW CROWN PRINCE!!
CROWN PRINCE KAIL MURSIL
THE SENATE HAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED PRINCE KAIL'S APPOINTMENT AS CROWN PRINCE
KLAK

.. I'M GOING BACK TO JAPAN, NO MATTER WHAT.
I MEAN IT WINTER WILL BE HERE SOON.
AND THEN SPRING AND WHEN THE WET SEASON ARRIVES.
I'M SO HAPPY! NOW PEACE AND STABILITY ARE ENSURED!
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU, TOO, PRINCESS YURI!
YAY
HOORAY! PRINCE KAIL IS THE CROWN PRINCE
OF COURSE! WHO ELSE IS AS QUALIFIED?
THIS IS WONDERFUL!
PRINCE KAIL S THE CROWN PRINCE!
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF MARRYING PRINCE KAIL
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT HADI.
IT'S NOT FAIR TO EXCLUDE YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A CONCUBINE. NO ONE DESERVES TO BE THERE MORE THAN YOU.
RAMSES.
HMPH.. WHY WASN'T THE PERSON WHO HELPED THE PRINCE THE MOST INVITED TO THE ROYAL CELEBRATION?
RAMSES IS RIGHT IT'S TIME YOU WERE THE PRINCE S LAWFUL WIFE, PRINCESS YURI!

WHEN I WAKE UP
IN HIS ARMS
SHIVER
IT'S SO COLD


IT'S BEEN 18 MONTHS SINCE I ARRIVED IN HATTUSA FROM TWENTIETH-CENTURY JAPAN.
LOOKING AT PRINCE KAIL'S LONG LASHES WHEN I WAKE UP EACH MORNING.
I'VE GOTTEN USED TO.

THE SPRING WILL BRING THE WET SEASON, RIGHT?
AND THEN I'LL GO BACK TO JAPAN.
WE CAN'T HAVE SUMMER ALL YEAR ROUND
I'M SURPRISED
IT'S SO HOT AND DRY HERE IN SUMMER, AND YET IT SNOWS IN WINTER
THE PEOPLE OF ANATOLIA CALL WINTER THE SEASON OF EARTH. IN WINTER, PEOPLE AWAIT THE SPRING WHILE THEY COPE WITH THE HARSH WEATHER
ANATOLIA IS HIGH ABOVE SEA LEVEL AND ITS CLIMATE IS EXTREME
ANATOLIA IS ON ABOUT THE SAME LATITUDE AS NORTH-EASTERN JAPAN.
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG YURI?
OH SNOW!
YES. I WAS IN THE MITANNI KINGDOM WITH YOUR TROOPS LAST WINTER.
OH YES.
THIS IS YOUR FIRST WINTER IN ANATOLIA.

PRINCE KAIL HAS JUST RETURNED TO THE PALACE
HE'LL BE EXHAUSTED FROM FULFILLING HIS DUTIES AS BOTH COMMANDER IN CHIEF AND CROWN PRINCE WE MUST SERVE HIM A HOT MEAL.
THE SEVEN DAY FEVER HAS SUBSIDED WITH THE WINTER BUT THERE'S STILL LOTS OF WORK TO DO
ALL RIGHT YOU THREE! STOP GOSSIPING AND GET BACK TO WORK.
OH NO, PRINCESS YURI, I COULDN'T ASK YOU TO.
YOU'RE SO BUSY CAN I HELP WITH ANY-THING?
URSULA ?
IF PRINCESS YURI WANTS TO HELP US, PERHAPS WE SHOULD LET HER.
YES. HADI

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
ARE YOU SO SURE THAT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED URSULA?
THEY SLEEP IN THE SAME BED EVERY NIGHT YET NOTHING HAS HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH PRINCE KAIL AND PRINCESS YURI?
IT'S MY JOB TO SEE THAT THEY MARRY!
THAT'S IT! I'VE DISCOVERED MY MISSION HERE!
HOORAY!♡
KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP
ALL OF YOU ARE VERY KIND AND CAPABLE, BUT
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO FOSTER ROMANCE BETWEEN THOSE TWO
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT PRINCE KAIL, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS THAT PRINCESS YURI HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF MEN.
OF COURSE I AM.

EH? YURI?
SPLASH
A-ALL RIGHT
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BROUGHT YOUR CLOTHES
UM. WELL, I'VE. UH.
OH, THANK YOU.
WOULD YOU PLEASE POUR ME SOME WINE?

WHAT?
HERE ARE HIS CLOTHES.
PRINCE KAIL IS TAKING A BATH RIGHT NOW
WOULD YOU PLEASE GO WASH HIM?
TAKE A BATH WITH HIM?
WAIT
WHUP
HERE YOU GO.
TAKE A BATH WITH HIM, IF YOU WANT
GASP
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE BRING ME THE WINE WILL YOU?
GOOD JOB, URSULA
WHO IS IT?

OF COURSE YOU ARE YOU'RE IN MY BATH.
SPLASH
IT'S NOT FUNNY! I'M SOAKED!
HA HA HA!
STOP IT YOU DRUNK
GOING TO CHANGE
I. I'M.
I'M ALL RIGHT THE SCAR ON MY BACK JUST HURTS SOMETIMES
WHAT'S WRONG?
ZING
OUCH!

HE'S PRACTICALLY RUNNING THE WHOLE EMPIRE FOR HIS BROTHER.
PHEW!
THIS MUST BE ONE OF THE FEW TIMES HE GETS TO RELAX

WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU COLD?
N-NO. I M FINE
PLUP PLUP PLUP
KLINK KLINK
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BUT

PRINCE KAIL YOU'RE DRUNK!!
IF YOU'RE COLD YOU SHOULD GET IN THE WARM WATER WITH ME.

OH NO. THE STEAM IS MAKING ME DIZZY
HAS BEEN MARKED.
IT'S A SHAME THAT SUCH SMOOTH BEAUTIFUL SKIN
YES
THE SCAR YOU GOT WHEN ZANNANZA WAS KILLED?
DO YOU MIND
IF I LOOK AT IT?
WHAT?
Hustle
PRINCE KAIL?
OH

MY HEAD'S SPINNING.
I FEEL SO DIZZY
I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT
THE WATER'S SO HOT, AND SO IS PRINCE KAIL'S BODY.
ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS PRINCE KAIL...
RIGHT NOW I DON'T CARE WHETHER I GO BACK TO JAPAN OR NOT

P-PRINCE
!!
BLUSH
slup

P-PRINCE KAIL
I LOVE YOU.
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME
NOTHING MATTERS BUT
YURI.
RIGHT NOW
ALL I CAN FEEL IS PRINCE KAIL

DID I SAY ANYTHING THAT UPSET HIM?!
WHY DID...?
WHY DID HE SUDDENLY LEAVE?!
PRINCE KAIL?
WHY?

SPLASH
?!
SWUP
YOU SHOULD PUT SOMETHING ON. QUICKLY
P-PRINCE KAIL?!
WE'LL CATCH COLD IF WE STAY HERE.
PRINCE KAIL?

WHY?
WHAT DID I DO WRONG?
I WAS FINALLY READY TO MAKE LOVE TO PRINCE KAIL.

OH.
WHAT WAS THAT ?!
SPLAK!!

THEY WERE SO CLOSE
WHY DID THEY STOP?!
HAVING PRINCESS YURI BRING WINE TO THE PRINCE DIDN'T WORK
HMM. THIS MAY BE HARDER THAN WE THOUGHT

I WISH I COULD STEAL AN EGYPTIAN LOVE POTION OR SOME OF QUEEN NAKIA'S ROSE WATER AND PUT IT IN THEIR FOOD
HAK
THAT WOULD DO THE TRICK.

IT SEEMS WE'VE HIRED A VERY CAPABLE STAFF

THIS CHILD?
DOES ANYONE KNOW
WHAT'S THE MATTER PRINCESS YURI?

RUKO
WHERE DID HE COME FROM?
HUH? A CHILD?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO HE IS?

KAIL ?
WHERE ARE YOU, KAIL?
WAAH WAAH WAAH
HE'S CRYING
THROB THROB
OH, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WAAH
KROOSH

WHO THREW THAT SNOWBALL AT ME?
WHO DID THAT?
?
SPLAT

A CHILD?
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
HEE
HEE
SPLAT SPLAT

PLOOSH!...
THE DAUGHTER OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE?
SH-SHE'S PRINCESS GUZEL.
HER FATHER WAS ONCE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE
YOU MUST BE ISHTAR
HOW DO YOU DO?
PRINCESS GUZEL?

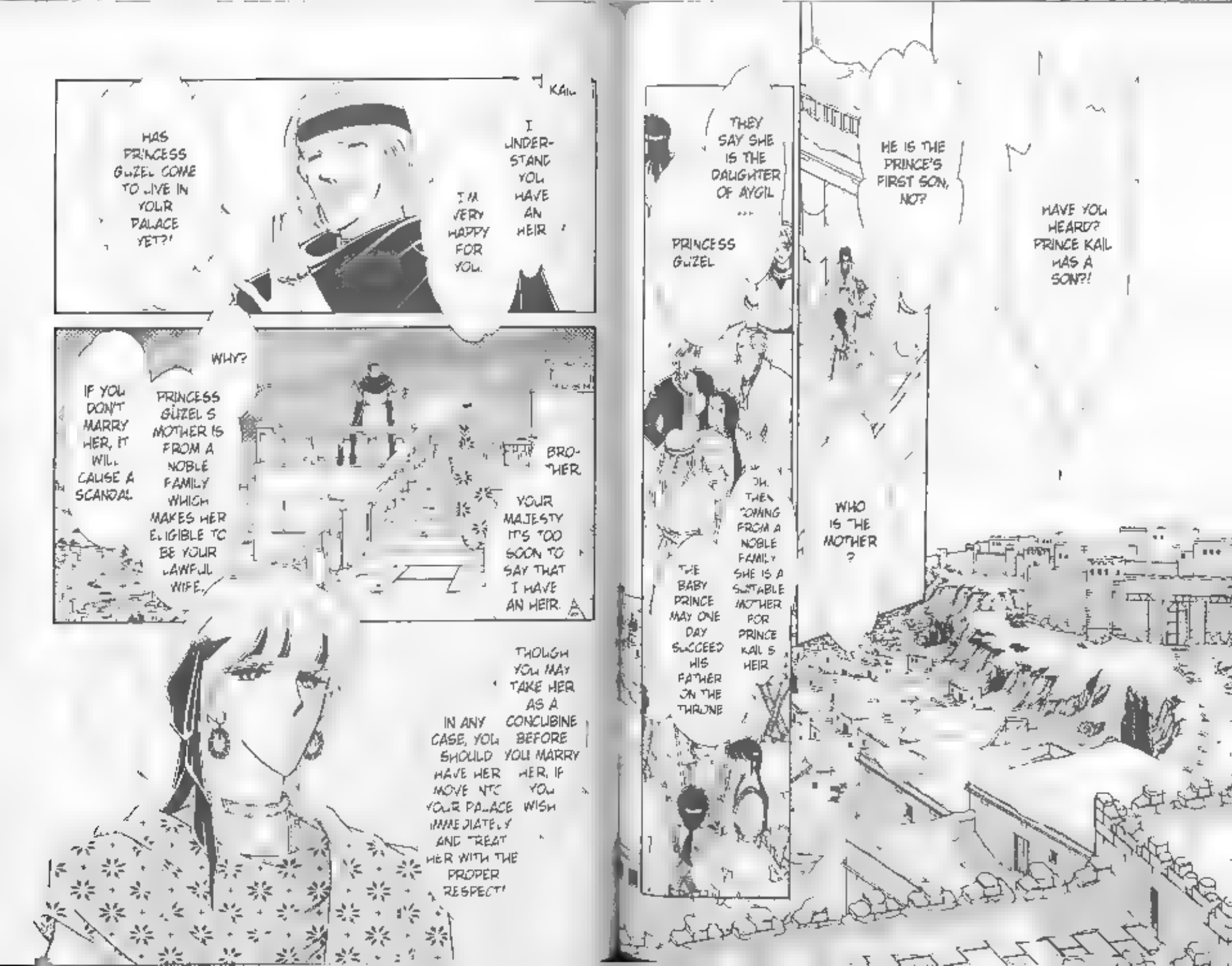
OH, KAIL.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE YOU WERE
YOU MUSTN'T WANDER OFF LIKE THAT I BROUGHT YOU HERE SO YOU COULD MEET HIS HIGHNESS.
WH-WHO IS SHE?
IT'S BEEN SO LONG
KIKKURI
PRINCESS GUZEL
OH.
WHO'S SHE? WHAT A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!

PRINCESS GÜZEL?
OF COURSE I DO HOW IS SHE?
I AM HONORED THAT YOU REMEMBER HER, YOUR HIGHNESS.
I WAS UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT I SHOULD TELL YOU THIS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT AYGIL
I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T COME HERE WITHOUT GOOD REASON.
WHAT IS IT YOU WISH TO DISCUSS?
DO YOU REMEMBER MY DAUGHTER?
THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS.
YOUR HIGHNESS.
FORGIVE ME FOR DISTURBING YOU.
SO EARLY IN THE DAY

WHAT?
AYGIL WANTS TO SEE ME?
HE'S HERE? AT THIS HOUR?
WHY DID HE COME HERE? I SEE HIM AT THE EMPEROR'S PALACE EVERY DAY
WHAT IS IT? IS IT SOME SECRET?
I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD MEET WITH HIM, YOUR HIGHNESS.

TWO SUMMERS AGO
PRINCE KAIL'S SON?!
HIS HIGHNESS VISITED ME IN MY PALACE ALMOST EVERY NIGHT
HE IS THE FATHER OF MY CHILD
YOUR HIGH-NESS.
THE CHILD IS YOUR SON.
YOU MAY THINK I AM MAD BUT
GUZEL GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY BOY ABOUT A YEAR AGO

IT HURTS SO BAD I CAN HARDLY BREATHE"
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
PRINCE KAIL HAS A CHILD?!
HE HADN'T EVEN MET WHEN HE WAS
HAD MANY
IN THE PAST


KAIL
HAS PRINCESS GÜZEL COME TO LIVE IN YOUR PALACE YET?
I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE AN HEIR
I'M VERY HAPPY FOR YOU.
WHY?
IF YOU DON'T MARRY HER, IT WILL CAUSE A SCANDAL
PRINCESS GÜZEL'S MOTHER IS FROM A NOBLE FAMILY WHICH MAKES HER ELIGIBLE TO BE YOUR LAWFUL WIFE.
BRO-THER
YOUR MAJESTY IT'S TOO SOON TO SAY THAT I HAVE AN HEIR.
IN ANY CASE, YOU SHOULD HAVE HER MOVE TO YOUR PALACE IMMEDIATELY AND TREAT HER WITH THE PROPER RESPECT!
THOUGH YOU MAY TAKE HER AS A CONCUBINE BEFORE YOU MARRY HER, IF YOU WISH
THEY SAY SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF AYGİL ...
PRINCESS GÜZEL
THE BABY PRINCE MAY ONE DAY SUCCEED HIS FATHER ON THE THRONE
OH. THEN COMING FROM A NOBLE FAMILY SHE IS A SUITABLE MOTHER FOR PRINCE KAIL'S HEIR
HE IS THE PRINCE'S FIRST SON, NOT?
HAVE YOU HEARD? PRINCE KAIL HAS A SON?!
WHO IS THE MOTHER ?

I'LL GO GET SOME WATER.
I HAVE CLEANING TO DO
I'LL HELP YOU.
WE WERE JUST WONDERING WHAT MIGHT
OH DEAR, I'D BETTER GO MAKE DINNER
KASH
HUH?
CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
GIRLS ?
IS IT IMPORTANT TO A MAN.
TO HAVE A SON?

HADI.
CHEEP CHEEP
DO YOU THINK PRINCE KAIL WILL MOVE PRINCESS GUZEL N- TO THE PALACE?
DOES PRINCE KAIL WANT CHILDREN?
PRINCESS YURI!
THAT'S RIGHT PRINCE KAIL MUST BE PLEASED TO HAVE A BABY BOY
I DON'T KNOW BUT SHE DID BEAR THE PRINCE HIS FIRST SON.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE AS THICK-HEADED AS YOU IS ALLOWED TO LEAD CHARIOTS INTO BATTLE
I SHOULD SEW YOUR MOUTH SHUT
WHY DID YOU HIT ME? THERE ARE NO INSECTS IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER!
I NEED YOU TO TASTE IT
WAP
PRINCESS YURI.
I'M BAKING BREAD WITH HONEY AND DRIED PLUMS.
PRINCESS YURI
PAY NO HEED TO WHAT KASH SAID
IT'S OKAY
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE THICKNESS OF MY HEAD? YOU'VE ONLY JUST ARRIVED HERE
WHAT ?
IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME TO TRY TO EXPLAIN IT TO A MAN LIKE YOU. I DON'T CARE HOW LONG YOU'VE SERVED THE PRINCE
HMPH!
HUH?
NOW I KNOW WHY PRINCE KAIL MAKE LOVE TO ME THAT

AND PRINCE KAIL, THE CROWN PRINCE OF THE GREAT HITTITE EMPIRE.
NATURALLY, PRINCESS YURI.
ONE REASON POWERFUL MEN KEEP SO MANY CONCUBINES IS SO THAT THEY CAN LEAVE BEHIND AS MANY CHILDREN AS POSSIBLE
IS A VERY POWERFUL MAN INDEED
I'M SURE HE'S DELIGHTED TO HAVE AN HEIR
KRASH
SORRY THERE WAS A BUG ON YOUR HEAD
THIS IS THE MOST WONDERFUL NEWS HE COULD POSSIBLY--

CHEEP
CHEEP
BECAUSE HE KNEW I COULDN'T HANDLE THE JOB!
SHIVER
KING ASRED TRYING TO MAKE LOVE TO ME...
I'LL BE EXPECTED TO BEAR HIS CHILDREN AND CARRY OUT DUTIES OF STATE AS HIS CONSORT
BECOMING PRINCE KAIL'S WIFE ISN'T JUST A MATTER OF BEING HIS LOVER
WILL I BE ABLE TO DO THAT?

RUSAFA
YOUR HIGHNESS!
ESCORT PRINCESS GUZEL HOME FOR ME
YURI
NEITHER MY FATHER NOR I WISH TO FURTHER OUR OWN AMBITIONS.
ARE YOU ANGRY THAT I DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT HIM SOONER?
ARE YOU UPSET THAT I NAMED HIM AFTER YOU?
PRINCESS GUZEL.
LET US SPEAK OF THIS SOME OTHER TIME.
BUT WHEN MY FATHER FOUND OUT THAT YOU WERE THE FATHER, HE SAID I WAS WRONG NOT TO TELL YOU
I TOLD NO ONE WHO THE BOY'S FATHER WAS UNTIL NOW

WUZZ
WUZZ
PRINCE KAIL IS HOME.
UM, WELL..
WHAT'S THE MATTER, URSULA?
WE MUST PREPARE A BATH FOR HIM.
YOUR HIGHNESS!
YOU REFUSED TO SEE HIM THE OTHER DAY AS WELL.
WHY WON'T YOU SEE KAIL, YOUR SON?

IF THAT'S TRUE
IT'S NOT THE RIGHT TIME YET
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TELL EVERY-ONE?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF POLITICAL MANEUVER?
IS IT BECAUSE PRINCESS GUZEL'S FATHER IS AN IMPORTANT MAN?
YURI.
OR DID YOU JUST SAY THAT TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER?
YOU SOUND LIKE A MAN WHO DOESN'T WANT TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS CHILD
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!

YURI?
IT WON'T DO ANY HARM JUST TO SEE HIM, WILL IT?
PRINCE KAIL.
WHY DON'T YOU HOLD THE BOY IN YOUR ARMS?
I'M NOT REALLY YOUR CONCUBINE
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME DON'T BE THERE'S NO NEED
NOT MY SON.
GUZEL'S CHILD IS.

"I'M NOT REALLY YOUR CONCUBINE."
"I'M GOING BACK TO JAPAN IN THE SPRING."
GIVE ME THE REINS!
I'M WELL AWARE OF IT!
YOU DON'T NEED TO TE... ME THAT!
YURI.
BECAUSE I'M GOING BACK TO JAPAN IN THE SPRING!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO LIE TO SPARE MY FEELINGS!
WHO YOU MARRY AND HOW MANY CHILDREN YOU HAVE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!

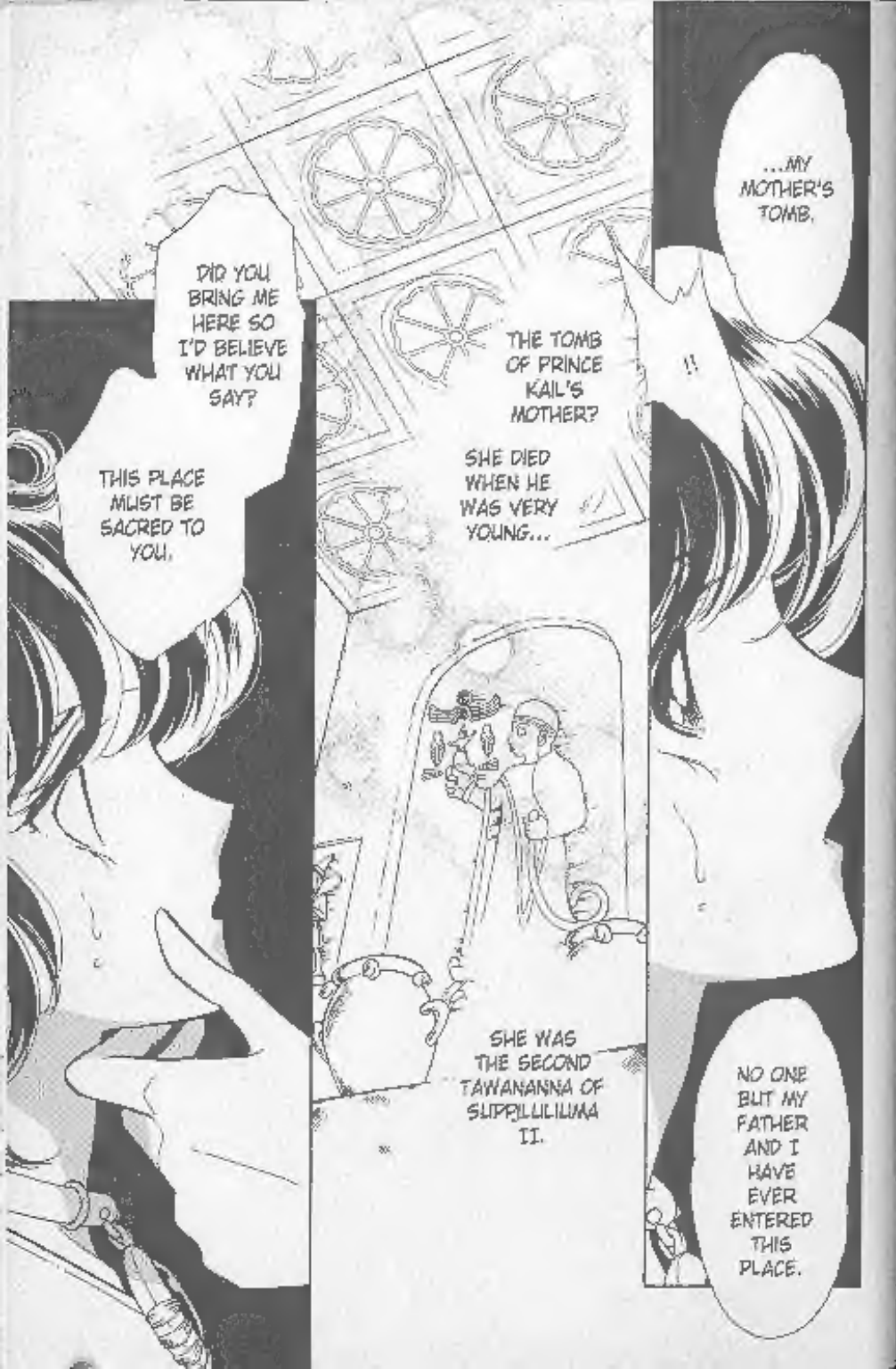
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
I KNOW WHAT IT REALLY MEANS.
TO LOVE A WOMAN
PRINCE KAIL?

WHAK
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
I SEARCHED FOR THE RIGHT WOMAN TO MARRY FOR A LONG TIME.
AND ALL THE OTHER BEAUTIFUL, TALENTED PRINCESSES DIDN'T SEEM RIGHT FOR ME
NOW I KNOW WHY PRINCESS GUZEL.
KLOP

WHUP
NO!
OPEN THE GATES!
TARRUMP
PRINCE KAIL!
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
TOMP
Y-YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!
PRINCE KAIL!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! LET ME GO!
AAAH!

THUMP
OH!
WHERE ARE WE?
I NEVER KNEW THERE WAS A PLACE LIKE THIS IN HATTUSA.
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ONE MORE TIME

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BITE YOUR TONGUE OFF KEEP QUIET
PRINCE KAIL LET ME GO!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
STOP IT PRINCE KAIL
TARRUHP
TARRUHP
TARRUHP
TARRUHP
PRINCE KAIL
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!
OPEN THOSE GATES.


DID YOU BRING ME HERE SO I'D BELIEVE WHAT YOU SAY?
THIS PLACE MUST BE SACRED TO YOU.
THE TOMB OF PRINCE KAIL'S MOTHER?
SHE DIED WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG...
SHE WAS THE SECOND TAWANANNA OF SUPPILULIUMA II.
!!
...MY MOTHER'S TOMB.
NO ONE BUT MY FATHER AND I HAVE EVER ENTERED THIS PLACE.

WH-WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
I DON'T CARE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK!
BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH.
...
THIS IS...
GÜZEL'S SON...
...IS NOT MY CHILD.
!!

!!
SHE GAVE BIRTH TO THE BOY MORE THAN A YEAR AFTER THAT.
THAT CHILD CANNOT POSSIBLY BE MY SON.

YOU THINK THAT PRINCESS GÜZEL LIED TO YOU?
THE GÜZEL I KNEW WOULD NOT HAVE DONE SO.
I'VE NO DOUBT THAT AYGIL BELIEVES THE CHILD IS MINE.
HE IS AN HONEST MAN.
AH!
PREG-NANCIES NEVER LAST FOR MORE THAN TEN MONTHS.

!!
DO YOU THINK SOMEONE IS MANIPU-LATING HER?
THEN WHY WOULD SHE LIE TO YOU NOW?
SHE WAS HONEST AND SINCERE.
THAT'S WHY I ONCE CONSIDERED MARRYING HER.

I REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SAW GÜZEL.
!!

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THIS GIRL WILL BECOME MY WIFE OR NOT, BUT...
...I WANTED YOU TO SEE HER, MOTHER.

LET'S GO BACK TO THE PALACE, PRINCE KAIL.
THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE.
SOMEONE'S MANIPULATING HER?
BUT THE ONLY ONE WHO WOULD DO A THING LIKE THAT IS...THE QUEEN!
YES.
I MUST BE CAREFUL BECAUSE I THINK THAT IS VERY LIKELY THE CASE.